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Crimean privatization head shot dead

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Romanow exudes Ukrainian pride

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Yeltsin's long-delayed visit may happen this month

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Ukrainian-U.S. relations advance with Kuchma visit

But serious concerns raised about official corruption

(JF Monitor/RFE/RL)—President Leonid Kuchma completed a visit to Washington on May 16 during which he co-chaired with Vice-President Al Gore a meeting of the U.S.-Ukrainian interstate commission.

Agreements were reached on:

• U.S. technical assistance to help create a "market-based, competitive, transparent, and efficient" gas sector in Ukraine and to attract Western investments for that sector, with a view to achieving "energy security for Ukraine" — i.e., reducing Ukraine's dependence on Russian gas.

• Bilateral cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including U.S. nuclear fuel deliveries to Ukrainian nuclear power plants. Kuchma stated Ukraine's "vital interest" in creating a closed cycle of nuclear fuel production, implying one independent of Russian deliveries of enriched fuel.

• U.S. financial and technical assistance toward scrapping all of Ukraine's remaining SS-19 and SS-24 strategic missiles inherited from the USSR (whose nuclear warheads have already been removed). Kyiv will consider the possibility of using some components of the SS-24s for commercial space launches, a matter on which the Gore-Kuchma commission will continue consultations. The U.S. will use its influence to ensure that Ukraine receives compensation for nuclear warheads and materials transferred to Russia.

• Participation of Ukrainian cosmonaut Leonid Kadaniuk in a U.S. "Shuttle" space flight next October. Kadaniuk, the first Ukrainian to participate in such a flight, is currently undergoing training by NASA. Washington and Kiev are drafting an agreement on protection of satellite technologies for early signature.

• U.S. assistance for Ukraine's military reforms and for the fulfillment of bilateral military cooperation programs — "aiming to enhance Ukraine's military security."

Gore and the U.S. side of the interstate commission will also recommend that President Bill Clinton ask Congress to grant Ukraine most-favored-nation status on a permanent basis, instead of subjecting it to annual review as is currently the case. This understanding is based on the U.S. State Department's favorable assessments of the human rights situation in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian delegation and Kuchma personally assured the U.S. that Kyiv will not cooperate with "problem countries" in the field of nuclear energy, and reconfirmed its decision to drop out of a tentative agreement to supply turbines for Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant. According to the Ukrainian delegation, the U.S. side agreed that Ukraine will continue producing conventionally-armed missiles with

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«Взяла би я бандуру...»

Церковний хор «Видубичі» з Києва, який тепер відбуває своє концертове турне по Канаді, дав публиці в Едмонтоні чудову духову насолоду коли виступив в тім місті 11 травня. Рецензія виступу на сторінці 12.

Poland, Ukraine sign historic reconciliation

By Marco Levytsky
With files from RFE/RL and Reuters

Poland and Ukraine on May 21 signed an historic declaration of friendship and reconciliation which is designed to lay to rest the long history of conflicts between the two and to provide a framework for cooperation in the future.

The document was signed in Kyiv by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma during Kwasniewski's official visit to Ukraine, which began May 20.

"If blood was spilled in the past there is a need to tell of it...We understand it by forgiving and asking forgiveness," Kuchma said.

"Germans and French, Germans and Czechs, Germans and Poles, Hungarians and Romanians have been reconciled despite all the difficult events in history, the non-tolerance and wars in the past," echoed Kwasniewski.

"We have a unique opportunity and we have no right to miss it...The past should not be repeated in the future," he said after the signing ceremony watched by hundreds of students at Kyiv's elite Institute for International Relations.

The declaration was negotiated in the course of many months. Its completion capped long-standing efforts by both countries to lay down lasting foundations for friendly and

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Найбільші бізнесмени з'їдуться в Києві

Ігор Стратій

(КБУВ)—В Україні побувала делегація Европейського банку реконструції та розвитку з нагоди підготовки до проведення в Києві у травні наступного року щорічних зборів Ради директорів банку. Відтепер не лишається сумнівів, що саме українська столиця прийме через рік п'ять тисяч найвпливовіших бізнесменів, які обговорюватимуть тут серйозні питання ділової співрпаці. Міжнародних організацій з Україною — також.

Київ витримав серйозну конкуренцію з кількома европейськими столицями за право проводити цей захід. Зайве сумніватися у його важливості для України, якій все ще не дуже довіряють у світі великого бізнесу. Вочевидь, прийдешній захід допоможе залучити інвесторів, налагодити ділові контакти.

Окрім цього, заплановані збори Ради директорів ЕБРР допоможе Києву «підтягнутися» до рівня упорядкованих европейських міст.

Так, голова оргкомітету цього заходу, голова Комітету Верховної Ради з питань економічної політики та управління народним господарством Олег Таранов запевняє, що до травня 1998 року відразу 17 київських готелів буде реконструйовано й обладнано не згірш за звичні европейські «чотиризіркові» готелі. Евробанк надає місту кредит в обсязі 100 млн. долярів, а ще 50 млн. долярів вишукано на більш–менш прийнятних умовах з терміном повернення 8 років.

Олег Таранов вважає, що саме перебування чисельної делегації ділових людей з 60 країн світу фінансово допоможе місту, адже серйозний бізнесмен щодня витрачає в таких поїздках 500–1000 долярів. Місто дістане відчутне фінансове підживлення — 25–40 млн. долярів.

Найбільше ж очікується від зборів Ради директорів ЕБРР пожвавлення інвестицій в українську економіку.

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Відзначення пам'яті жертв концтабору в Явожні

(Укрінформ)—10–11 травня українські громадські організації в Польщі, а також православна й греко–католицька церкви оголосили днями поминання жертв депортаційної акції «Вісла», 50–річчя якої минає цього року. До найважливіших заходів у ході відзначення цієї жалобної річниці було поминання жертв концтабору в Явожні.

До Явожна прибуло кілька тисяч українців з усіх кінців Польщі, зокрема велика група православного та греко–католицького духовенства на чолі з митрополитом греко–католицької церкви Іваном Мартиняком.

На сумній урочистості були також присутні активісти українських організацій – голова Головної Ради Об'єднання українців у Польщі Юрій Рейт, депутат Сейму РП Мирослав Чех, мер міста Явожна Анджей Венгляж, посол України в РП Петро Сардачук і радник посольства Теодозій Старак.

У молодому лісі, посадженому в 60–х роках з метою стерти всякі сліди концтабору, ще в 1992 році на невеликій поляні, де, можливо, були поховані закатовані в'язні, поставлений і посвячений великий березовий хрест, а також позначені символічні могили. На цьому місці 10 травня пройшло поминання пам'яті жертв Явожна.

Православні й греко–католицькі священики (серед яких були два колишні в'язні Явожна), а також місцевий парох римокатолицького обряду спільно відправили молебень до Пресвятої Богородиці та акафист за померлих, після чого митрополит Іван Мартиняк освятив місце, де буде споруджений пам'ятник жертвам концтабору.

Після релігійних урочистостей перед присутніми виступили мер Явожна, посол України та депутат польського Сейму. А. Венгляж висловив співчуття українцям, які потерпіли внаслідок акції «Вісла», а особливо жертвам концтабору в Явожні.

Він підкреслив при цьому, що в явожнівському концтаборі мучилися не тільки українці, а й німці та поляки, яких сталінський режим вважав своїми ворогами. Мер повідомив присутніх про рішення міської Ради Явожна збудувати пам'ятник жертвам концтабору.

За його словами, пам'ятник може бути відкритий вже через рік. Торкаючись польсько–українських відносин, мер зазначив, що більшість поляків не вічуває ворожнечі до українців і хочуть жити з ними у мирі й злагоді.

Посол України в РП П. Сардачук охарактеризував українсько–польські відносини як добросусідські і висловив сподівання, що минуле не стане на перешкоді їх поглибленню. Українсько–польська ворожнеча була завжди вигідна третім силам і найчастіше ними розпалювалася.

Депутат Сейму і член Головної Ради ОУП М. Чех розповів, що пропозиція надати права репресованих осіб в'язням Явожна та деяким іншим категоріям осіб української національності була відкинена в Сеймі правлячою лівою більшістю. За цю пропозицію проголосувало тільки 87 депутатів демократичного табору.

Чех запевнив, що демократичні сили Польщі не зупиняться на цьому і далі домагатимуться зрівняти в правах українців з громадянами інших національностей, зокрема поляками. Заподіяна 50 років тому кривда повинна бути морально й матеріяльно компенсована.

11 травня в усіх православних і греко–католицьких церквах Польщі були відправлені богослужіння та панахиди пам'яті жертв акції «Вісла».

Відкрито меморіяльну дошку «Остарбайтерам» з України

(Укрінформ)—На запрошення спілки «Пам'ятати заради майбутнього» та адміністрації німецького міста Дуйосбурґа, прибула група колишніх остарбайтерів з України.

Цих людей в роки другої світової війни підлітками насильно вивезено до Німеччини: вони працювали в 1942–45 рр. на примусових роботах на металургійних фабриках Дуйсбурґа, довколишніх шахтах, на полях.

Під час урочистої церемонії на кладовищі міста Мерс, що розташоване поблизу Дуйсбурґа, відкрито меморіяльну дошку, на якій, серед іншого, викарбовано: «Могили на кладовищі Мербек нагадують нам про чоловіків, жінок і дітей інших народів, яких привезли в роки націонал–соціялістичного режиму, особливо в 1941–1945 рр. на примусові роботи до Мерса... Нехай їх доля, яка протягом десятиліть в Німеччині замовчувалася, стане для нас перестрогою».

Вінок на могили остарбайтерів поклав посол України у ФРН Юрій Костенко. Він відзначив велику роботу по догляду за похованнями колишніх військовополонених та остарбайтерів, яка ведеться вже протягом багатьох років простими людьми, громадськими організаціями та об'єднаннями у демократичній Німеччині.

Новий проєкт дозволить Україні позбутися російського диктату

Валентина Карпенко

(КБУВ)—Між Україною та Туреччиною досягнуто надзвичайно важливої домовленості про спорудження нафтопроводу Джейхан–Самсун, по якому енергетична сировина з азійських країн може піти до Европи без російського втручання. Здійснення цього проєкту дозволило б Україні позбутися енергетичної залежности від свого не вельми дружнього північно–східного сусіда.

На вимогу Туреччини Україна взяла на себе зобов'язання забезпечити річне завантаження майбутнього нафтопроводу в обсязі не менше 25 млн. тонн. Але для цього необхідна відміна з боку ООН ембарго на споживання іракської нафти.

Для спорудження нафтопроводу необхідний кредит міжнародних фінансових організацій у розмірі не менше 1,7 млрд. долярів.

Знову серед гірших?

(КБУВ)—Европейський банк реконструкції та розвитку оприлюднив прогноз розвитку країн Східної Европи та Балтії у 1997 році.

Країна	Ріст валового національного продукту	Ріст інфляції (%)
Болгарія	–2,3	269,1
Хорватія	5,5	5,6
Чехія	4,6	8,5
Естонія	4,1	15,4
Македонія	4,6	6,9
Угорщина	2,5	18,3
Латвія	3,2	12,3
Литва	3,5	16,0
Польща	5,3	13,0
Румунія	2,9	50,5
Словаччина	5,0	6,7
Словенія	3,8	8,5
Вірменія	5,4	16,3
Азербайджан	5,5	14,3
Білорусь	0,8	57,3
Грузія	8,1	13,9
Казахстан	2,0	29,7
Киргизстан	5,4	27,2
Молдова	5,3	13,8
Росія	0,7	20,9
Таджикистан	–6,0	79,9
Туркменістан	4,1	212,4
Узбекистан	2,2	48,2
Україна	–1,5	35,7

На прохання українських фахівців експерти банку підготували спеціяльну доповідь щодо економічної ситуації в Україні, в якому розглянули два варіянти розвитку. За сприятливих обставин, стверджують вони, Україна могла б досягти зростання валового національного продукту в нинішньому році на 2 відсотки, в наступному — на 9, а в 1999–2000 роках їй під силу був би і 11–відсотковий приріст. Якщо ж українці господарюватимуть нерадиво, як і дотепер, то найближчі два роки матимуть спад виробництва по 4 відсотки, і лише 1999 року можливий невеличкий приріст.

Відрадно, що, як і раніше, европейські фахівці вважають потенціял українського споживчого ринку величезним.

Ukrainian-U.S. relations advance

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ranges of 300 to 500 kilometers while "guaranteeing" that it will not export them or sell the technology to "any" country.

During the commission's meeting and in his talks with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank top managements, Kuchma reaffirmed his commitment to the package of economic reforms agreed upon last December. However, resumption of the disbursement of the US$2.9 billion will continue to depend on the Ukrainian parliament's adoption of reform legislation — especially new tax laws and the 1997 budget. Leftist forces in parliament have until now blocked that legislation.

The issue of combating official corruption in Ukraine figured high on the Kuchma-Gore commission's agenda and also in Kuchma's meetings on Capitol Hill and at the World Bank and IMF. It is seen as a significant impediment to Western investment in Ukraine.

American officials and U.S. business leaders and investors are deeply upset by what they see as an atmosphere in Ukraine which is forcing Western investors to flee, taking their money with them.

Only last month, the major U.S. electronics manufacturer Motorola pulled a $500 million investment in Ukraine's telecommunications sector, citing for its decision frequent government rule changes, exorbitant fees and official corruption. Other major firms, such as Monsanto, Cargill and Coca-Cola have also threatened to reduce stakes in Ukraine due to corruption and other problems.

U.S officials say that of 34 U.S. companies registered with the commercial section of the American embassy in Kyiv, 24 have asked for official U.S. help after suffering "serious difficulties" with Ukrainian authorities.

The American coordinator of assistance to the countries of the former Soviet Union, Presidential advisor Richard Morningstar, was recently in Kyiv to warn that unless the government begins to seriously deal with corruption and a long list of business and investment problems, even the U.S. government would have to start reconsidering its aid.

May 15 Kuchma met with a select group of American business executives and investors at Blair House, the White House guest home.

In a statement prepared for the meeting by the Ukrainian-U.S. working group of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce — made available to RFE/RL's economics correspondent in Washington — the business community says it has a "grave concern" that Ukrainian-U.S. trade and investment has "failed" because the "legacy of Soviet governance and commercial isolation" has not been overcome.

The group presented a list of nine major points that it says must be dealt with immediately if Ukraine is to have any hope of keeping the investment it has, let alone draw any new business.

The list includes such things as government supervision of the financial sector, establishment of clear lines of authority for agencies dealing with trade finance, stability in customs law and tariffs, and "rapid privatization and devolution of regulatory authority to private sector participants." Opening up the private sector and eliminating much government regulation is the "only effective way to eradicate corruption in Ukraine," the business group says.

Even worse, the group says the oil and gas sector in Ukraine is in such terrible shape that it needs radical reform as a top priority if Ukraine is ever to achieve its goal of energy independence.

U.S. oil and gas companies offer a long list of problems, including "a maze of overlapping bureaucratic fiefdoms and state-run holdovers from the pre-market times," "no coherent policy" for development of the sector, a draft law on production which mostly reflects "the policy vacuum that currently exists" and a domestic market for energy that is "distorted and over-regulated."

In addition, the oil and gas companies say that natural resources are being wasted in Ukraine through inefficient use and mere "lip-service" to energy-saving programs, failure to adopt international technical, safety and environmental standards, and a tax system that discourages additional investment in any energy sector.

Poland, Ukraine sign historic reconciliation

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cooperative relations.

The two countries have established harmonious relations during recent years. Formal bilateral relations developed soon after July 1990, when the Ukrainian parliament passed the declaration of state sovereignty. On Dec. 2, 1991 Poland became the first country formally to recognize Ukraine as an independent state (Canada was second). Since that time, there have been numerous exchanges involving parliamentarians and scientists, figures in the arts and education, and many ordinary citizens.

Poland has supported Ukraine's efforts to integrate into major Western institutions, such as the Council of Europe. Warsaw has also brought Ukraine into the Central European Free Trade Agreement.

Ukraine joined NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program, as did Poland. Kyiv has approved NATO's plans to expand in the East, and has hinted that it might eventually join the Alliance as well.

For Ukraine, smooth relations with Poland have meant an easier opening toward the West. Ukrainian officials have frequently declared that for their country "the road to the West leads through Poland."

For Poland, which has a long common border with Ukraine, friendly cooperation with Kyiv is the political priority. Warsaw officials have repeatedly emphasized that a friendly cooperation with Ukraine would play a major stabilizing role in Eastern and Central Europe by providing an example of the peaceful resolutions of long-standing conflicts and differences

Both countries have a common history of conflicts, mistrust and discord. These go back to the fourteenth century when Poland annexed the Ukrainian principality of Halychyna and continued through the sixteenth when the rest of Ukraine was taken over following the Polish union with Lithuanian in 1569.

In the seventeenth century Cossacks and Ukrainian peasants repeatedly rebelled against the Polish landlords and kings, culminating in the successful revolt of Cossack Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky in 1648.

However, external pressure and internal conflicts forced Khmelnytsky into the ill-fated Pereyaslav Treaty of 1654 under which Tsarist Russia assumed control.

The conflicts acquired a new intensity during armed clashes between Ukrainians and Poles in 1918 and 1919, when the two sides fought over what is now Western Ukraine in the aftermath of Russia's collapse.

There were repeated clashes between Ukrainian partisans and Poles from 1943 to 1947, which ended in the forceful relocation of huge numbers of people. Under the 1947 "Operation Wisla" Ukrainians in the Polish border regions of Chelm (Kholm), Przsemysl (Peremyshl) and the Lemko lands were uprooted and moved the the territories which had been taken over from Germany following World War II.

The public's memory of those events is still alive in both countries, fostering mutual popular distrust and making it difficult for each government to arrive at generally acceptable solutions.

The declaration of reconciliation constitute an attempt to relegate to the past this long history of bitter enmity and discord.

Kwasniewski and Kuchma also signed several cultural and economic agreements. The Polish president spoke to Ukraine's Supreme Council, visited the southern city of Odesa and made a special trip to the city of Zhytomyr, the site of the largest ethnic Polish community in Ukraine.

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Рекорд українських моряків

(Укрінформ)—У німецькому місті Росток, що у федеральній землі Мекленбург–Передня Померанія, відбулася урочиста церемонія з нагоди повернення українського вітрильника «Херсонес» з плавання довкола мису Горн.

В кінці жовтня минулого року «Херсонес» вийшов у далеке плавання з німецького порту Кіль. Український прапор майорів у портах Чилі та Аргентини, Бразилії та Португалії, Іспанії та Островів Зеленого мису. «Херсонес» обігнув мис Горн, який ще й сьогодні залишається дуже серйозним випробуванням для моряків.

За 182 дні відважний екіпаж подолав 15,868 морських миль. Президент чилійського братства капоньєрів адмірал Роберт Бенавенте офіційно підтвердив досягнення «Херсонесу», відзначивши, що лише небагатьом суднам вдавалося так близько пройти біля мису і побачити його. Корабель став першим вітрильником, який обігнув мис Горн з 1949 року.

Виступаючи на урочистій церемонії, посол України у ФРН Юрій Костенко відзначив, що екіпаж «Херсонесу» з честю приніс український прапор просторами двох океанів.

Іноземні кредити використовуються неефективно

Валентина Карпенко

(КБУВ)—Нинішній рік для України є першим, коли платежі по отриманих раніше іноземних кредитах становитимуть вагому частку державного бюджету і будуть відчутними для державної економіки, підточеної фінансовою кризою. Для обслуговування кредитних боргів потрібно 180 млн. долярів. Не менше 100 млн. долярів, стверджують фахівці з Міністерства фінансів, прийдеться сплачувати державі, оскільки підприємства та фірми не дотримаються своїх зобов'язань щодо своєчасного погашення кредитів.

Уже протягом кількох років за Україною утвердилася репутація країни з підвищеним ризиком для іноземних інвесторів. Приміром, два роки тому їй відводилося 146 місце в рейтинговій таблиці. Нижче перебували здебільшого країни, де велися війни (Югославія, Грузія, тощо). Для порівнання: якщо Україна «переварювала» лише 1 млрд. амер. долярів зарубіжних інвестицій, то Китай (теж держава з колишнього «соціялістичного табору») — 110 млрд. Нині інвестори, звичайно, вже мають більше справ з Україною, але загалом справи все ще невтішні.

Однією з найбільших проблем для України є ефективність використання іноземних кредитів та інвестицій. Бувши причетними до комерційної діяльности, українські урядовці уникають відповідальности за визначення об'єктів кредитування під гарантії уряду. Ні позичальник, ні банк–агент не турбуються за своєчасне виконання фінансових зобов'язань, оскільки суперечности нинішнього законодавства дозволяють їм перекладати ці клопоти на плечі держави. Фактично з кожних 100 долярів іноземних кредитів 85 доводиться відшкодовувати з державної казни.

Готується президентський указ про порядок отримання іноземних кредитів під гарантії держави, яким передбачено доручити розподіл коштів комерційним банкам.

Коротко

Львів хоче омолодитися

(КБУВ)—Розроблено і схвалено проєкт реконструкції комплексу залізничного вокзалу у Львові. Передбачено все тут облаштувати за европейськими мірками, от тільки де дістати кошти на реалізацію проєкту — ще невідомо. Зате вже створено у Львові Центр реабілітації слуху, поки що єдиний в західноукраїнському регіоні.

Папа хоче побувати на Запоріжжі

(КБУВ)—Між Ватиканом та урядом України є попередня домовленість про відвідання козацької вольниці Папою Римським. Іоан Павло II має намір відправити службу на легендарному острові Хортиці. Настоятель запорізької парафії римо–католицької церкви Ян Собело заявив у місцевій пресі, що Папа Римський цікавится історією України і знає про виняткову роль Хортиці в духовному житті українців.

Інвестиції в українську економіку

(КБУВ)—У першому кварталі нинішнього року, за офіційною статистикою, зарубіжні інвестори вклали в українську економіку близько 157 млн. амер. долярів — на 14,4 відсотка більше, ніж за відповідний період попереднього року. 16,8 млн. долярів (10,7%) з цієї суми припадає на країни СНД та Балтії.

Можливо, селяни скоро зможуть передавати в оренди частки колгоспних земель

Валентина Карпенко

(КБУВ)—Український парлямент з величезними труднощами схвалив у першому читанні проєкт закону про оренду землі.

Ще невідомо, чи принесе користь новий закон після врахування зауважень та пропозицій депутатів, але сам факт схвалення його концепції — обнадійливий. Документ дає підстави для сподівань, що з'явиться можливість селянам передавати в оренду свої умовні земельні частки колишніх спільних колгоспних наділів, закріплені за ними після розпаювання колективних полів. Це створило б умови для появи фермерів, приватних агрофірм. Водночас необмежуване право земельної оренди обанкрутило б колективні господарства (колишні колгоспи), що не вміють господарювати.

Рік тому проєкт закону про оренду землі було потоптано в українському парляменті. Тепер же депутатів підштовхнув до поміркованіших позицій недавній указ Президента, яким знімалися ринкові обмеження у сфері земельної оренди. Л. Кучма, таким чином, скористався своїм правом регулювати правовідносини там, де вони не відрегульовані законодавчо. Ліва більшість назвала цей указ неконституційним, вказуючи на те, що в Конституції тезу про будь–які форми власности на землю закріпили лише за умови, що земельно–власницькі відносини регулюватимуться виключно законами. Ось тепер парлямент і змушений був шукати компромісу, щоб на зміну президентському указу прийшов закон.

В питаннях аграрної реформи Верховна Рада України вже кілька років ходить по замкненому колу: проєкти окремих аграрних законів відхиляє, бо вони суперечать нормам старого Земельного кодексу, а внесення змін і доповнень до кодексу бльокує ноенклятурне аграрне лобі парляменту.

Група депутатів від фракції РУХу внесла проєкт нового Земельного кодексу. Та сподіватися на його швидке ухвалення не доводиться.

Чи Ваші діти, чи внуки слідкують за подіями в Україні?

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Створено Асоціяцію Хорватських Українїстів

(Укрінформ)—На пропозицію ініціятивного комітету і в співробітництві з посольством України в Республіці Хорватія 15 травня в Загребі створено Асоціяцію хорватських українїстів.

Певні затримки у створенні такого об'єднання були викликані драматичними подіями, що супроводжували процес становлення незалежної суверенної республіки. Нині, коли закінчується процес мирної інтеграції, країна поступово набирає ритм рівноправної держави, — відзначалося у повідомленні ініціятивного комітету.

Однією з її акцій — заходи по наданню українїстиці гідного місця у сучасному хорватському суспільстві. Наголошувалося, що українїстика в Хорватії має глибоку історичну традицію. Так, ще барокковий полігістер Юрай Крижанич продемонстрував високе значення української культури бароккової доби.

Невпинний інтерес до української мови і літератури характеризує хорватську думку продовж наступних століть, що, зокрема, ілюструє щойно опубліковане в Загребі двомовне видання «Хорватія–Україна. Культурні зв'язки між Адріатикою і Дніпром». Показовим є той факт, що в Загребському університеті українська мова викладається з 1965 р., який був і тривалий час залишився першим і єдиним університетським центром з викладанням українїстики у Південно–Західній Европі. Спільними зусиллями українїстів Загреба (А. Менац) і Києва (А. Коваль) було створено перший хорватсько–український словник.

Серед досягнень хорватської українїстики особливе місце посідає перше в історії української культури представлення українського авангарду в Україні відбулася саме в Загребі в кінці 1990 – на початку 1991 року. Велика роль у теоретичному обгрунтуванні феномену українського авангардизму і вихованні дослідників з цієї проблеми належить академіку Олександру Флакеру.

Нині в Хорватії готується серія публікацій, зокрема, добірка української поезії, дослідження з історії давніх взаємин двох народів, переклади з історії України, серії публікацій з сучасного суспільного, культурного життя України. Показовим стала і організована минулого року у Києві спільна конференція хорватських і українських вчених, присвячена проблемам суспільства обох країн у посткомуністичний період.

Головою Асоціяції хорватських українїстів обрано відомого славіста академіка Олександра Флакера, заступниками – відому дослідницю лінгвістики академіка Антицю Менац і професора історії Бориса Гралюка.

Першим заходом створеної асоціяції стало звернення до ректорату Загребського університету і відповідних міністерств про необхідність реорганізації українських студій у Загребському університеті до рівня, який би стимулював підготовку висококваліфікованих українїстів.

Сільськогосподарська продукція має проблеми збуту

(КБУВ)—За підрахунками Міністерства сільського господарства та продовольства, у першому кварталі нинішнього року збут української сільськогосподарської продукції закордон зменшився у порівнанні з аналогічним періодом минулого року на 24 відсотки.

Сталося це передусім у зв'язку із скороченням експорту цукру та спирту. Зрозуміло, пов'язано це передусім з Росією, яка вдається до всіляких економічних обмежень щодо українського імпорту. Більшість продуктів харчування Україна традиційно поставляла росіянам. Внаслідок торгівельної війни, розв'язаною Москвою, до російського споживача за перші три місяці 1997 року потрапило продукції сільського господарства лише 38 відсотків від запланованого обсягу.

Head of Crimean Privatization Fund shot dead

(RFE/RL/InfoBank)—The head of the State Privatization Fund for Ukraine's Crimea peninsula was killed May 16 outside his home.

A spokesman for the regional prosecutor's office said neighbours found Oleksa Holovyzin outside his apartment with three gunshot wounds. Holovyzin died later in hospital.

The spokesman said that Holovyzin was shot at near-point blank range and that the murder appeared to be linked to his professional activities.

"An honest man of principle who cared about the state and worked for the state, not for himself was killed, thus the gauntlet has been thrown before the state itself, said Vasyl Kyselyov, Presidential representative in Crimea.

Holovyzin was killed on the landing of the fifth floor of the multi-storeyed apartment block where he lived as he was heading for work. The elevator in the building wasn't running that morning.

Preliminary analysis suggests that the murder weapon was a gun of the Makarov type. It was probably equipped with a silencer as residents of the fifth floor did not hear the shots.

Holovyzin has headed the Fund since 1995. Before that, he worked as the director of one of the largest companies in Simferopol, Fiolent, which manufactured products mainly for the military complex.

In 1994, he headed the Crimean election campaign of Leonid Kuchma.

About a year ago Crimea was rocked by a series of killings that police believed to be carried out by organized crime groups seeking control over resorts on the peninsula's Black Sea shore.

Crimean Tatars demonstrate

(RFE/RL)—Some 10,000 ethnic Tatars demonstrated May 18 in Simferopol to mark the 53rd anniversary of the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars, dpa reported.

The demonstrators gathered in Lenin Square to demand assistance for the 250,000 Crimean Tatars who have returned to Crimea in the past five years.

The Tatars were deported to Soviet Central Asia in 1944 under communist leader Joseph Stalin for alleged cooperation with the German occupation forces during World War II.

The demonstrators said some 100,000 returnees still have no flats, and tens of thousands of them are unable to find jobs.

May 14 about 250 Crimean Tatars picketed the Council of Ministers building in Simferopol, demanding the recognition of their rights as a national minority of Ukraine and the right to return to their homeland following forced deportation in the Soviet era.

In particular, the protesters demanded the government grant Ukrainian citizenship, jobs, housing, and equal educational rights for the Tatars, many of whom recently returned from deportation in the 1940s.

Organizers of the protest met with Arkadiy Demydenko, the chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers, who promised quick action.

Kyiv shows open welcome for NATO Secretary General

(The Rukh Insider)—During NATO Secretary General Javier Solana's visit to Ukraine May 7-8, he was greeted on several occasions by well-wishers.

While opening an exhibit on NATO in the "Ukrainian Home" building in the centre of Kyiv, Solana was greeted by a crowd which chanted "Ukraine into NATO!" "Forward, NATO!" and "Amamos Solana!" ("We Love Solana!").

No anti-NATO demonstrators were observed, lending credence to the view that anti-NATO sentiments in Ukraine are stimulated largely by the Verkhovna Rada's communist leadership.

An appeal adopted by the Central Leadership of Rukh on March 21, called on the Ukrainian government to apply for NATO membership forthwith, stating, in part: "In order to render impossible Ukraine's return to totalitarianism and a renewal of the Russian empire with its eternal military confrontation with the West, in order to provide for Ukraine's active participation in the general European integration process as a Central European state and a corresponding role in the process of building a secure and prosperous Europe, Ukraine's President and the Cabinet of Ministers should adopt new, decisive and significant steps directed at the realization of a European choice. Today such a step should be the submission of an application for entry into NATO."

Constitutional Court makes first ruling

(RFE/RL)—The recently established Constitutional Court made its first decision May 15, ruling that parliamentary deputies cannot simultaneously hold government posts or most private sector jobs, Ukrainian media reported.

The ruling confirms a clause in the constitution, which was adopted last year.

The tribunal ordered lower courts to review earlier decisions allowing legislators to government posts.

Many officials may be forced to choose between parliament and their other occupations.

However, that will not apply to Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko and a number of other senior figures, because the court ruling says those who were elected to the parliament before June 1995 and have held government posts continuously since then can keep both jobs.

CE will not suspend Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—Leni Fischer, the president of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, told reporters in Kyiv May 14 that the suspension of Ukraine "is not on the [council's] agenda," despite what she called Kyiv's inconsistent progress toward abolishing the death penalty.

The Parliamentary Assembly warned Ukraine in January that it might suspend Kyiv if it failed to keep its promise, made when it joined the council two years ago, to end the death penalty.

The Justice Ministry says executions ceased that month.

Recently, Ukraine again pledged to abolish the death penalty by signing Protocol Six of the European Human Rights Convention.

Kyiv reportedly put 169 criminals to death last year.

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Українські Вісті видає дво–тижнево *Едмонтон Лайзергрефикс, Відділ Кенейдієн Криптикс Лтд.* під контрактом із видавцями *Українські Вісті Лтд.* Річна передплата $30.00. Всі права застережені. Не можна репродукувати ніяких матеріялів без писаного дозволу видавця. Опінії висловлені в статтях не все відповідають опінії власника, видавця чи редакційної ради.

An historic reconciliation

The signing of the historic declaration of friendship and reconciliation between Poland and Ukraine by Presidents Aleksander Kwasniewski and Leonid Kuchma on May 21 mark a landmark occasion which, hopefully, will put to rest the long history of conflicts between the two and provide a framework for cooperation in the future.

The conflict between the two nations goes back centuries. It began back in the days when the fledgling states of Kyivan Rus and Piast-Dynasty Poland clashed over border regions. Events took a turn for the worse when Poland, with the tacit cooperation of the local nobility, annexed the Ukrainian principality of Halychyna in 1349, following the demise of the native ruling family. While the rest of Ukraine enjoyed a full range of autonomy under the Lithuanian Grand Duchy, this came to an end in 1569 when the Polish Kingdom formally took over the rest of the country.

Class conflicts between the Ukrainian peasantry and the Polish nobility were exacerbated by religious intolerance. Several revolts ensued and the Ukrainian Cossacks were temporarily successful in establishing their own state under Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky in 1648. This was short-lived. An ill-fated alliance with Russia brought the bear into play and a period known in Ukrainian history as "The Ruin" followed as the country was split between Poland and Russia.

The conflicts were numerous during this century and memories of the "Pacification" of Halychyna in the 1930's, or the "Operation Wisla" in 1947, when Ukrainians were relocated from their ancestral homes in the Polish Ukrainian border regions to the reconstituted state's new borders with Germany, are still fresh for many people.

But while it is important to remember past injustices and to acknowledge them, it is even more important to lay them to rest once and for all. This is precisely what the document signed by the presidents of the two countries strives to achieve.

Both countries have much to gain from this reconciliation. For Poland, an independent and westward-leaning Ukraine is the only barrier between itself and a restless Russia which has yet to reconcile itself to the loss of an empire. For Ukraine, Poland is the "opening to the West" the country needs so badly in order to reconstruct itself from the debacle left by centuries of Russian imperialism and Soviet totalitarianism.

Even more important, this document signals the readiness of both countries to enter into the "New Europe" — a Europe where all civilized countries are laying their historic conflicts aside and creating a new structure based upon democracy, peace and respect for minority rights. A Europe which has learned from sad historical experience, especially within this century, that war and bloodshed can have horrendous consequences.

This document will go along way in the development of cooperation and good-neighbourly relations between two countries that have a sad history of conflict. It also establishes — once and for all — Ukraine's security along her Western borders. Now, if only a similar agreement could be reached the neighbour to the East. But, perhaps at this point in time, that is still wishful thinking.

Чергова бійка в парляменті — розминка перед виборами

Цим закінчилася нова спроба усунути соціяліста О. Мороза з посади спікера парляменту

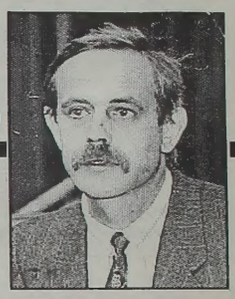
(КБУВ)—13 травня, було вчинено другу спробу усунути Олександра Мороза з посади Голови Верховної Ради України. Як це й передбачалося, нічого з того не вийшло. Зате чергові політичні розборки в політичних верхах увінчалися показовою бійкою — найбільшою в недовгій історії українського багатопартійного парляменту. В ній одночасно взяли участь кілька десятків депутатів.

Героєм же дня виявився Степан Хмара.

Аби вдруге не повертатися до цього скандального епізоду, відразу уточнимо, що роль провокатора мордобиття з успіхом зіграв лідер комуністів П. Симоненко. При відкритті чергового пленарного тижня, коли всі готувалися до атаки на спікера О. Мороза, він виступив з облудною заявою–протестом проти «утисків» лівих у Львові під час «святкування Великої Перемоги радянського народу у Великій Вітчизняній війні». Оскільки ж у його словах, як і завжди, було мало правди, відповідна реакція не забарилася. Степан Ількович буквально стягнув комуніста №1 з трибуни й відразу ж потрапив під стусани вгодованих молочиків з фракції «Комуністи за соціяльну справедливість та народовладдя». Після незапланованої перерви, під час якої депутати відхекалися, О. Мороз таки дозволив П. Симоненкові в оточенні «побратимів» дочитати свою політичну кляузу до кінця.

Звичайно ж, така прелюдія була на руку спікеру, оскільки його противникам у парляменті й без усіляких катавасій важко зорганізовувати голоси для проштовхування рішень всупереч лівим. Прикметно, що за ходом «кулачних дебатів» законотворців самовпевнено спостерігали з бокової ложі члени Уряду, котрі посходилися з нагоди відставки Мороза...

Можливо, ця обставина зіграла злий жарт з прем'єром П. Лазаренком, щодо якого О. Мороз після невдалих голосувань за його знищення чи не вперше дозволив собі висловитися різко негативно. Очевидно, «таємний союз» між Морозом та Лазаренком (на противагу Л. Кучмі), що ледь вловимо простежувався протягом багатьох місяців, відтепер розірвався. Прем'єр на це йшов свідомо: людей з підвладній Лазаренкові депутатської групи «Єдність» було зорієнтовано голосувати за відставку Мороза.



Віталій Шевченко

Народний Депутат України

До чергового наступу на спікера готувалися здавна, місяців зо два. Таємно блукали в коридорах Верховної Ради підписні списки, причому, до цієї процедури активно залучалися призначені Президентом губернатори областей — вели «індивідуальну роботу» з депутатами від своїх регіонів. А керували операцією лідери пропрезидентської групи «Конституційний центр».

Згідно з Регламентом Верховної Ради, необхідно було зібрати більшість (226) голосів, аби ініціювати це питання шляхом внесення до порядку денного. І тоді б О. Мороза було усунено на 15 днів від ведення сесії, після чого – ухвалення остаточного рішення.

Голуб інтеграції чи блудний син?

Бенефіс Лукашенка в Києві залишив суперечливі враження

Андрій Шевченко

(КБУВ)—Фабула минулотижневого візиту Президента Білорусі Олександра Лукашенка до Києва була виведена за всіма належними законами жанру. Лукашенко побратськи цілував Кучму, обмінювався досвідом в передовій агрофірмі на Київщині і повсюди ділився своїми сподіваннями на приєднання України до Союзу Росії й Білорусі. Офіційний Київ, отримавши афтограф Лукашенка під Договором про державний кордон, успішно завершив майже п'ятилітню історію делімітації кордону з Білоруссю, зробив цим самим ще один крок до безповоротного узаконення чинних кордонів і водночас зберіг обличчя перед західними та вітчизняними демократами, скоротивши до мінімуму офіційну програму перебування в Україні «бацьки» демократії по–білоруськи. Аншлаг по ходу його пересування забезпечували пікети рухівців та червонопрапорних активістів різних мастей, які відповідно готувалися закидати Лукашенка яйцями і благословити його на президентство в новому СССР.

Проте глядач, обізнаний з перипетіями білоруської трагікомедії, не міг не помітити, що на київській сцені грав новий Лукашенко – не той, що став Президентом в один день з Кучмою – 10 липня 1994 року. Справді, як і йдучи на вибори, Лукашенко клявся у відданості ідеї евразійської інтеграції, критикував НАТО за поспішне розширення і навіть розмови про економіку зводив до співробітництва у військовій та політичній сфері.

Водночас Лукашенко досить обережно говорив про російсько–білоруський союз і навіть заперечив дві власних заяви, передані «інтерфаксом», – про впевненість у приєднанні України до союзу. Мінісенсацією стало зізнання Лукашенка в тому, що вслід за Росією та Україною Білорусь готує власний договір про особливе партнерство з НАТО. Не секрет також, що Лукашенко, який свого часу пропонував якнайшвидше і повне об'єднання з Росією, останнім часом вперто повторює формулу, досить дивну як для створення союзу зі спільними органами влади: «Білорусь залишиться суверенною державою».

В тому, що Лукашенко тягне до інтеграції нічого дивного немає: навряд чи Президент, в особистому розпорядженні якого, зі слів фахівців, коштів на суму, що дорівнює річному бюджеті республіки, щиро бажає перетворення Білорусі на п'ять західних областей Російської Федерації. Так само навряд чи він взявся б зараз протистояти російським капіталам та російським політичним машинам у битві за Кремль. Якщо він у змозі адекватно оцінювати ситуацію.

Вочевидь, візит до Києва був потрібен Лукашенкові, не лише як прорив дипломатичної блокади, він цілком міг бути спробою пошуку нової точки опори в регіоні. Білоруському Президентові годі сподіватися на підтримку з боку Польщі, яка на порозі вступу до НАТО, та прибалтів, які прагнуть того ж з усіх сил. Налагодження стосунків з Україною залишається для Білорусі єдиною альтернативою перед повним розчиненням у Росії і рятівною соломиною у прорубуванні нового вікна на Захід. Президент країни, що стоїть на межі повної економічної катастрофи і позбавлена будь–якої фінансової підтримки з боку Заходу, вже мав сповна переконатися в усіх «перевагах» буття чорною діркою в центрі Европи і під боком Росії. Тому він приречений на поворот у бік Заходу — принаймні, якщо в нього залишилися крихти політичного прагматизму. Проте так само очевидним є й інше: сьогодні найскладнішою перепоною для можливого повернення Білорусі на стежку демократії, ринкової економіки і незалежності є сам Лукашенко. Здійснити цей поворот міг би лише інший актор з новим репертуаром.

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow addressing the Kyiv Konnection '97 fundraising banquet.

Romanow exudes Ukrainian pride

By Marco Levytsky

Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow delivered a rousing speech, replete with Ukrainian pride, at a fundraising banquet in Edmonton, May 15.

Speaking at the Kyiv Konnection '97 Banquet, organized by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, and held at St. Basil's Cultural Centre, Romanow related how his parents emigrated to Canada before the Second World War "in search of freedom, opportunity, democracy and hope."

"How well I remember the Ukrainian school classes at the (Ukrainian *National Federation) Hall*; the concerts of Ukrainian poetry readings and the song and dance; the violin lessons; church; the special holidays of Easter and Christmas, all celebrated in the traditional Ukrainian manner," he said..

"I remember my parents' involvement in nationalist groups, devoted to keeping alive the flame of a free and independent Ukraine; and, above all, I remember my parents' dream that some day, during their lifetime, they would return to visit that free and independent Ukraine.

"Well, sadly, it was not to be. They both passed away before independence," he noted.

In the past 3 years, as at Kyiv Konnection '97, the UFCE has selected Grant MacEwan Community College as the recipient of the funds raised from their major fundraising banquet.

These funds have been used to partially cover operating expenses of GMCC Ukraine, the college's office in Kyiv, Ukraine, and have also been used to cover the costs of Ukrainians staff and faculty training visits at GMCC. These work/study placements at GMCC draw on the expertise of college staff, and transfer knowledge about infrastructural development to the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the college's partner in Ukraine.

Romanow reminisced about his visit to his parents' birthplace — the village of Stoyaniv — in 1995.

"I finally understood — fully and completely — why we maintained all those traditions and our language here in Canada, and the history upon which my goals and values were built. I felt I knew myself better.

"Most of you here tonight know, and our Ukrainian forebears knew all too well, of what I speak. The hardship and the hope; the trials and the tribulations; and ultimately the triumph of the human spirit that is Ukraine. That is Ukrainian," he said.

Nevertheless, the country faces some tough challenges in its endeavours to achieve that goal. These include building effective democratic institutions, building an economy which extends opportunities and improves the quality of life, modernizing its civil service and its regulatory and supervisory functions, capitalizing on the great economic potential and wealth of the nation, living in harmony with Russia and uniting the several different regions into a single-minded entity.

"There are many serous obstacles on the road to national strength and independence. But, speaking quite frankly, I left convinced that they were succeeding and that they would prevail — not without setbacks from time to time — but, prevail nonetheless."

Romanow also outlined some of the projects Saskatchewan is involved with in Ukraine.

On the commercial side, Saskatchewan is providing technical training in forage and grazing management at the demonstration farm project at Pereyaslav Khmelnytsky.

"Our involvement in this area began when our provincial chapter of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress took on a private farmers' exchange program, which originated at Grant MacEwen Community College. We're building on your success."

Saskatchewan is also involved in the development of the oil and gas industry. Several Saskatchewan-based oil companies are finalizing joint ventures in Ukraine.

As well, the provincial power company, SaskPower, is participating in a major World Bank project to rehabilitate the Kryviy Rih Power Station, he said.

On the government and public administration side, Saskatchewan is participating in the Canada-Ukraine Legislative Cooperation Project, along with Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario and, next month, will host Ukrainian parliamentarians and senior officials to assist in the development of critical tax legislation.

The province is also helping Ukraine's national Ministry establish a central legislative drafting unit, providing assistance to Lviv to establish a tourism authority and setting up a small business centre in Chernivtsi Oblast in cooperation with the University of Saskatchewan and the UCC's Saskatchewan Provincial Council, he said.

In the educational field, Saskatchewan has built upon its longstanding relationship with the State University of Chernivtsi and is working with Saskatchewan teachers of Ukrainian on a two-year Health and Wellness Curriculum for use in Ukraine's school system.

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at GMCC, related some of the projects the college is involved with in Ukraine.

These include nursing education, a project chaired by GMCC Dean Geraldine Nakonechny, a business division which cooperates with the International Business School at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and ensuring the continuation of the GMCC representative office in Kyiv.

Greetings were also delivered by Larissa Syvolozska, public relations director for the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Also during the evening, John Shalewa was presented with the UFCE's first President's Award by Dr. Albert Hohol.

Luchkovich Scholarships awarded

Over $6,000 has been awarded to 12 Albertans as a result of the most recent competition for Michael Luchkovich Scholarships for Career Development. The scholarships will allow recipients to enhance their careers in a variety of fields such as health care, business, and the trades.

The Michael Luchkovich Scholarships for Career Development provide Albertans in the workforce with financial assistance to further their education and training through short-term or part-time study.

Michael Luchkovich was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania in 1892. He came to Alberta in 1916 and taught in schools near Vegreville and Innisfree. Ten years later, he was elected to the House of Commons as the Member for the Vegreville constituency. During his nine years as a federal member of Parliament, Michael Luchkovich was a strong advocate of human rights.

After retiring from politics in 1935, he operated a retail business in Vegreville. He also wrote articles, and edited and translated Ukrainian books about the contributions made to Canada by Canadians of Ukrainian heritage. His memoirs were published in 1965.

Luchkovich died in Edmonton in 1973. In recognition of his contributions to Canadian society, an Alberta Heritage Scholarship was named in his honour in 1981.

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Yeltsin's long-delayed visit may come this month

By Jan de Weydenthal

(RFE/RL)—Russian news media have reported that President Boris Yeltsin was considering making a long-delayed visit to Ukraine later this month to sign a bilateral friendship treaty.

The media quoted Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, as saying that Yeltsin had discussed the visit with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma at a meeting in Moscow and that the two agreed on May 30 as a possible date for the trip. Kuchma was in the Russian capital to witness the signing of a peace protocol between Moldova and the Transdnister separatist region.

Subsequently, Kuchma held a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the village of Novoselitsy, near the city of Novgorod, where the two attended a commemorative ceremony for Soviet soldiers killed during the World War Two.

Following the meeting Chernomyrdin said that he would go to Kyiv on May 28 to prepare Yeltsin's visit.

Russia and Ukraine have so far failed to conclude the basic friendship treaty which would seal Moscow's formal recognition of the former Soviet republic as a sovereign country. Ukraine declared its independence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Yeltsin has postponed a visit to Ukraine, and the signing of the treaty, at least six times in the past two years.

These postponements have been blamed on continuing disputes over the base for the Russian Black Sea Fleet, recurring commotions by pro-Russian separatist groups in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and disagreements on economic issues.

Russia and Ukraine have long and bitterly disagreed on the status of the huge naval base in the Crimean city of Sevastopol. Moscow wants to have an unrestricted and sole possession of the base for its fleet, while Ukraine insists that the base is on its national territory and could only be leased to Russia for a specific time. Continuing negotiations on the issue have so far produced no solution to the dispute.

Bilateral relations have also been strained by recent forays of some Russian politicians, particularly Moscow's mayor Yuri Luzhkov, into Crimean politics. Their nationalist agitation to claim Russian sovereignty over Sevastopol has encouraged new drives by die-hard pro-Russian groups in the peninsula to unify with Russia. The Crimean peninsula has a mostly ethnic Russian population. The republic was part of Russia for more than two centuries until former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred it to Ukraine four decades ago.

Once heavily dependent on the Soviet economy as a whole, Ukraine continues now to rely on Russian supplies of energy resources and is still linked to Russia through a multitude of economic and trade ties. These links are certain to continue in the future, although friction has emerged in several areas, particularly as a result of Ukraine's ventures onto the international arms market and its attempts to develop links to Central Asian oil producers by-passing Russia.

Yeltsin's planned visit to Ukraine could help to mollify persistent tension in those areas. But its essential feature will be Moscow's acceptance of Ukraine as a separate national and political entity.

It is a belated acceptance, perhaps owing to the lingering hope in the influential sectors of the Russian political establishment that Ukraine will reunify Russia. But reality has clashed with that hope.

Ukraine has been very successful in asserting its independence. A member of the Moscow-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Ukraine has nonetheless refrained from taking part in joint military structures of that alliance, and based its policy on firm, and developing, ties to Western institutions.

Ukraine has joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program and is preparing to reach an agreement regulating lasting relations with the Western alliance. NATO's Secretary General Javier Solana has opened, in Kyiv, a NATO information centre to disseminate news about the alliance among the Ukrainian population. Ukraine has hinted repeatedly that it may be willing to join the alliance in the years to come.

In August Ukraine plans to stage military exercises on its territory with units of U.S. forces and troops from other NATO countries.

Russia has openly and repeatedly voiced its disapproval of those Ukrainian moves. But to no avail. Indeed, Russia growling might have only reinforced Kyiv's determination to seek greater and closer cooperation with the West to counterbalance possible threats from Moscow.

Yeltsin may have realized that further postponements of visits, reluctance to recognize political realities and shows of displeasure are essentially counterproductive. And this may be the main reason for his visit to Kyiv.

In the meantime, Ukraine's consolidation of statehood has already reinforced broader changes in Eastern Europe. Its emergence as a fully independent state on Russia's western border has reduced somewhat Moscow's influence in both the region and Europe as a whole.

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Ukraine, Belarus sign border agreement

(JF Monitor)—The presidents of Ukraine and Belarus, Leonid Kuchma and Aleksandr Lukashenko, and senior officials of the two countries conferred on May 12-13 in Kyiv on the full range of bilateral relations.

The presidents themselves signed an agreement on the mutual border and its delimitation, recognizing the existing — and never disputed — border as final. A topographic atlas, tracing the 1,200 kilometer long border in detail, was also approved and signed as a constitutive part of the agreement. Demarcation work on the ground is scheduled to proceed.

The two presidents sharply differed on NATO's enlargement, with Kuchma stating that Ukraine is "not embarrassed to seek friendly relations with NATO" in response to Lukashenko's stated "categorical opposition" to the alliance. Lukashenko offered to mediate between Ukraine and Russia if asked to do so. In a separate meeting with the Ukrainian parliament's Socialist chairman, Oleksandr Moroz, Lukashenko expressed a "strong wish" that Ukraine join the planned Russia-Belarus union. Lukashenko was trailed by hostile Rukh pickets and by friendly Communist pickets.

Kyiv believes that maintaining some forms of political communication with the Lukashenko regime is preferable to total international isolation, which would leave Minsk no alternative but union with Russia. Kuchma has also evidenced skepticism about the reality of such a union even if signed on paper.

In Washington May 13, Ukrainian Security Council chief Volodymyr Horbulin urged the U.S. and other countries to "do everything to preserve the independence of Belarus despite its turn toward totalitarianism."

Air Force goes into air cargo business

(JF Monitor)—The Soviet Air Force had stationed 2 military transport divisions in Ukraine, and when the USSR collapsed Ukraine inherited some 200 giant Il-76 military jet cargo planes — nearly one-half of the Soviet inventory.

Short of money and with far more air-lift capacity than it needed, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry subsequently leased 62 Il-76s to private companies in Ukraine.

Now the ministry has had second thoughts and is canceling those leases and recalling the Il-76s back to the colors.

According Defense Ministry spokesman Serhiy Nahoryansky, the ministry wants to use these aircraft in its own air cargo company.

He charged that some of the cargo companies had displayed a "careless attitude" towards the planes and were not maintaining them properly.

Roughly equivalent to the American C-141, the Il-76 can carry up to 40,000 kilos of cargo or 140 paratroopers.

Ukraine also nationalized 30 tanker variants of the Il-76 after the country became independent, taking over the only such tanker regiment in the Soviet Air Force.

Russian military transport aviation has never been able to make up for these losses and its limited airlift capability is one of the reasons for the current downsizing of Russia's airborne forces.

Electrical problem shuts down Chornobyl

(RFE/RL)—The sole working reactor at Ukraine's Chornobyl nuclear plant has been shut down along with a reactor at Ukraine's Zaporizhia nuclear plant, due to power failures.

Officials at Chornobyl said the plant's sole functioning reactor was taken off line May 18 after a failure in the electrical supply to the reactor's generator. No increased radiation was reported.

Meanwhile, the number 2 reactor at the Zaporizhia plant, 400 kilometres southeast of Kyiv, was closed May 19 after oil inside a transformer overheated.

Plant spokeswoman Larisa Merkulova said the shutdown was automatic.

No injuries or increased radiation were reported.

Minor accidents have prompted reactors at Zaporizhia, Europe's largest nuclear power plant, to be shut down six times in the past two months. One of its six reactors is currently off line for planned repairs.

Letter to the Editor

Holidays should be respected regardless of calendar

We are very lucky in our Ukrainian-Canadian community that we are able to celebrate holidays on more than one occasion.

These celebrations, whether they are Christmas, Easter, Zelene Sviato, St. Nicholas Day or otherwise are celebrations of our entire community no matter what date they fall on.

Easter, celebrated on the weekend of April 25 (Julian Calendar) is not only an Orthodox celebration, but a Ukrainian Celebration.

I am Ukrainian Catholic, and my parish celebrates this holiday and others following the Julian Calendar (Old Calendar). The church was packed full of other parishioners and many visitors not from this parish.

Many other people gather with their families or go out to the farm to celebrate, but in some way most people recognize that this day is 'Ukrainian Easter'.

It matters not which day people celebrate on, what matters is that this day is recognized as a Ukrainian holiday.

Events such as volleyball tournaments and dancing school concerts should not be organized on any significant religious holidays be they Orthodox or Catholic.

Organizing such events on these days shows a lack of disregard and a general disrespect for what we as Ukrainians have come to hold dear. By organizing events on holidays we are not creating a unified community, we are just further fragmenting our society and leading it to further decay.

Lisa McDonald, Edmonton

Newsbriefs

Deputy Economics Minister fired

(InfoBank)—May 19, President Leonid Kuchma fired Deputy Economics Minister Volodymyr Naumenko. Naumenko handed in his resignation following sharp criticism at the April session of the Presidential Anti-Corruption/Organized Crime Coordinating Committee. Another top Government official to have been rapped at the same session was Transport Minister Ivan Dankevich who had earlier been dismissed by the President.

Money allocated for back wages

(InfoBank)—May 19, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko ordered an allocation of UAH 7 million (C$5.15 million) from the national budget for the restructuring of the coal industry. The money will go to mine construction companies to pay monthly wages to their workers. He also ordered that delayed wages to mine construction workers, which now stand at UAH 30 million, be repaid within three months.

Cabinet urges exemption for aid

(InfoBank)—The Cabinet of Ministers has submitted a draft law to the Supreme Council which will exempt humanitarian aid from customs charges. According to the draft law, duties may only be imposed if the cargo has been at the customs for more than 31 days.

Landslide relief sought

(Ukrinform)—During a May 10, meeting with President Leonid Kuchma, Crimean Prime Minister Arkadiy Demydenko said that his government needs about 20 million hryvnias (C$14.7 million) to cope with the consequences of rain-caused landslides in South Crimea, which have disrupted road traffic there. According to Demydenko, the Crimean Government expects about five million from the central authority in Kyiv.

Tatars accused of spying

(JF Monitor)—The Russian Black Sea Fleet's counterintelligence service claims that Crimean Tatars are spying on the fleet on behalf of Turkey. A fleet headquarters officer stated May 8 that the counterintelligence service has "repeatedly exposed such cases," most recently during a large-scale exercises conducted by the fleet last month.

Kuchma wants gas consumption reduced

(Ukrinform)—President Leonid Kuchma has directed government ministries and departments to draft measures aimed at reducing consumption of natural gas by 20 percent. According to the Ukrainian Presidential Administration, the directive was prompted by the "uncontrolled increase in natural gas consumption in spite of inadequate natural gas reserves and a total debt of about 4.5 billion hryvnias for natural gas."

Antarctic expedition returns home

(Ukrinform)—May 15, the first Ukrainian Antarctic expedition returned home aboard the scientific research vessel named "Ernst Krenkel." The expedition was manned by a group of Ukrainian scientists who spent more than one year at the Vernadsky (formerly Faraday) Antarctic Station which was handed over to Ukraine by Great Britain.

British centre at Lviv university

(Ukrinform)—A British information centre has opened at Lviv's Ivan Franko National University under the aegis of the British Council. Roy Stephen Reve, the British Ambassador to Ukraine, attended the opening ceremony and met with the University's students and teaching staff.

Population decrease expected to continue

(InfoBank)—The Economics Ministry forecasts that the population of Ukraine will continue to decline over the next 30 years.

It is estimated that by the year 2006 it will be down to 46.7 million people — 4 million less than today. During the last five years Ukraine's population has decreased by almost 1.5 million people.

Ukraine has the eighth lowest birth rate in the world — behind France, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Spain, Greece and Romania.

In 1996, the birth rate in Ukraine was 9.1 per every thousand of population. Ukrainian experts forecast that in the following years the birth rate will be even lower and one can expect it to rise slowly only after the year 2005.

But life expectancy in Ukraine is also lower than other European countries. It is 73 years for women and 62 for men.

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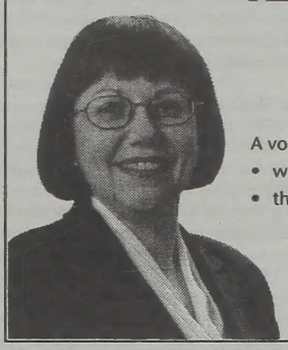

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Taking Charge • Taking Care

Secret Russian archives reveal historic intrigues in Canada

By Carol MacIvor

(RFE/RL)—Two Canadian scholars have unearthed what they are calling "a treasure trove of Canadian history" from once-secret archives in Russia.

Professor Larry Black, head of Carleton University's Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations and Dr. George Bolotenko of the National Archives of Canada began their project four years ago but only now are talking about what they have found.

The two have made several trips to 16 archives in Moscow and St. Petersburg. They have just received a C$200,000 grant to begin a systematic three-year search for documents related to Canada.

They also are tackling archives in Ukraine.

Black says that "as well as drawing a profile of how Moscow saw Canada over the course of nearly two centuries, we are also finding material to fill gaps in Canadian history, documents that confirm past rumors and reveal tantalizing information that might fall into a category of 'regrets in history' — things that might have been."

What they have found so far, says Black, are documents ranging from "the intrigues of Czar Nicholas in a Canadian rebellion in 1837 to proof of the stupidity and naivete of the Canadian Communist Party."

"It actually looks as though the turning point in persuading the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance in Russia to quickly build the Trans-Siberian railroad was a report that said the Canadian Pacific Railroad was used to get troops out to put down the Riel rebellion. It was a good argument," says Black.

Black is combing through reports of Russian engineers and other experts who came to Canada in the late 1880's to study the transcontinental railroad. He found a report written in 1891 by N.A. Volonshinov which warns that "Britain can move its troops to the Pacific 10 days faster than going by ship."

Black says the Russians were particularly impressed by the use of rail to send troops to put down the Saskatchewan rebellion. He says Moscow was afraid that, in the event of a war, British troops could beat the Czarist forces to Russia's Pacific shore by travelling quickly across Canada by rail.

As well, says Black, the Russians were impressed by Canada's use of the railroad to settle the West, making it harder for the United States to annex a populated territory of Canada. The Russians wanted to settle Siberia to keep China from taking over the area.

The scholars have found documents that show Russia's Ambassador to the United States, A.A. Bodisko, in the 1830's was anxious to support the 1837 rebellion against British colonial rule. He promised Russia's help to the rebels in Lower Canada (Quebec), but then did not follow through after receiving instructions from Moscow saying that Czar Nicholas had decided against meddling in British affairs in Canada.

Black says that, at the time, the Czar told the U.S. envoy in St. Petersburg that when a government became oppressive and forgets the tender care to which a colony was entitled, she justified resistance and separatism.

At the time of the uprising, rebels claimed the Russians were going to help them. In a trial held in Montreal, one of the accused rebels testified that the Russian Consul had said the imperial government of Russia would seize "with pleasure this occasion to avenge in Canada the deep wounds which the Circassians (Georgians), sustained by English money and engineers, had inflicted on Russia."

Other documents deal with a 1927 Soviet plot to dump wheat on the international market to undermine world prices and trigger a worldwide depression. The memo on this says the move "will hit Saskatchewan first." Saskatchewan is Canada's main wheat-producing province. Black says this material "is the first absolute proof of what the Soviets were up to and that Canada was right, at the time, to push for an international embargo on Soviet wheat."

Black has found documents showing that the Soviets were targeting Canadians thought to be soft on the regime of Josef Stalin. He has unearthed handwritten lists of once-prominent Canadians seen as likely friends of the Soviet Union who might influence government policy and public opinion in Canada. Among those listed as targets on a 1936 list are politicians and other public figures.

Black says he is hoping to gather 125,000 pages of documents over the next three years. He and Bolotenko are thought to be the only Canadians among the hundreds of foreign scholars now researching the Russian archives.

Zhirinovsky causes brawl

(RFE/RL)—Russian media say ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky assaulted two TV journalists May 8 after they tried to film him being refused entry to a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown soldier outside the Kremlin.

Zhirinovsky, who apparently was late for the ceremony, was barred from the memorial by presidential guards just as President Boris Yeltsin was laying flowers.

One of the reporters was said to be bruised on the face during the scuffle.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzkhov called the incident "totally disgraceful." Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov said that "Zhirinovsky must be brought to answer for his hooliganism" and promised to deal with police who failed to intervene.

Zhirinovsky, a State Duma deputy, enjoys immunity from prosecution unless the chamber lifts it. He has not commented on the incident.

EU approves technical aid for Ukraine

(RFE/RL) - The European Commission on May 20 announced its approval of technical assistance programs for Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, within the "TACIS" program framework for 1997. The stated objective of the program is to support and accelerate the transition to a market economy. The programs for 1997 will be in the form of non-repayable grants amounting to about US$30 million for Ukraine and about $8 million for Kyrgyzstan. Our correspondent reports the program for Ukraine is focused mainly on support for economic reform and developing the private sector. Energy and environment-protection programs are also funded.

Rada criticizes Romania treaty

(RFE/RL)—The Ukrainian parliament has criticized the Ukrainian-Romanian Treaty on Cooperation and Good Neighborly Relations, which was initialed on May 3, Interfax reported May 13. Deputies said the treaty deviates from Ukraine's foreign-policy concept of protecting the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They asked the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry to explain why the treaty was signed. In particular, the parliament is concerned that the Foreign Ministry might have exceeded its powers by making concessions to Romania on Serpents Island. The treaty states that no offensive weapons can be placed on the island.

Kuchma slams Rada

(RFE/RL)—President Leonid Kuchma on May 19 accused the parliament of deliberately delaying the passage of the long-delayed 1997 budget and of stalling reforms in the hope of "reaping the harvest" of voter discontent in next year's elections, Interfax reported. He said lawmakers were showing "sharpened opposition" to the president's reforms. Kuchma also criticized Pavlo Lazarenko's government, saying it had taken a "subservient position" on the budget issue by offering the parliament the opportunity to pass a budget based on incompletetax reform.

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An Advertising Feature for the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation

10th Anniversary of the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation

The level of education and scholarship in a given country can serve as a gauge of its wealth, power, and influence in the contemporary world. A nation's welfare today is determined not so much by its natural resources or military strength, but by the professional qualifications of its citizens and by the stability of its financial institutions. States, such as Singapore or Hong Kong, which established dynamic, wealthy, and cultured societies on small territories with virtually no natural resource, are the best examples of this premise, especially if they are compared with large countries, rich in natural resources, but with high poverty levels.

The amount of accurate information available to the international community about a given nation's history and culture, and the effectiveness of its dissemination, determine global political attitudes toward that nation's people. Ukrainians, about whom world opinion was for centuries formed by their political enemies, understand the practical effects of this premise only too well. Even today, five years after the independent Ukrainian state was proclaimed, the world still does not know the objective truth about our history and our present-day situation and in many spheres of political and cultural life, Ukraine is still considered to be part of Russia.

Regrettably, few Ukrainian organizations have accepted the fact that the only effective way to achieve a long-lasting positive influence on international attitudes toward Ukraine and Ukrainians is by improving international scholarship about Ukraine and by supporting Ukrainian scholars and professionals. Established in 1986, the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation is unique among all other Ukrainian institutions in the world because its activities are conducted within the context of international academic circles. The Foundation has been instrumental in the establishment of Ukrainian Studies programs and scholarly centres at leading universities throughout North America and Europe. As a result, these institutions now develop and implement research in Ukrainian studies, educate the next generation of scholars and professors in the field, produce important publications about Ukraine, its history, culture, and current international status, and organize scholarly conferences and educational programs about Ukraine for Western diplomats and businessmen. These activities, in turn, have visibly influenced world opinion about Ukraine and Ukrainians, as illustrated by the following examples:

• In 1991, following the establishment of the Petro Jacyk Lectureship in Ukrainian Studies at the University of London, England, the university organized an international conference entitled "Ukraine and European Security." This conference attracted considerable attention from the British press and influenced the attitude of Western European countries toward the Ukrainian independence referendum of 1 December 1991. By demonstrating the importance of an independent Ukraine in the maintenance of European security, this conference contributed to the positive international recognition of Ukraine's independence.

• Although for decades the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in New York has been known as one of the world's leading academic institutions specializing in Soviet studies, the overwhelming majority of its research and educational programs nonetheless focused exclusively on Russian studies. Following the establishment of Petro Jacyk Ukrainian Studies Program there, the Institute not only introduced new courses in Ukrainian language, literature, and history, but also became one of the organizers of a series of conferences: "Peoples, Nations, Identities: The Russian-Ukrainian Encounter," which stimulated a lively discussion in the international press. Toronto Star correspondent, Stephen Handelman, proclaimed to millions of Star readers that relations between Russia and Ukraine may prove to be the most important factor in the determination of European security, and concluded that stable relations between these two nations will only be possible when Russia changes its imperialistic attitude toward Ukraine. Following the last conference, an entire issue of the prestigious Harriman Review – subscribed to by all serious scholarly libraries in the world and by most scholars and politicians specializing in Eastern Europe – was dedicated to Ukrainian-Russian relations.

• In 1996, when the Foundation initiated its campaign to nominate President Kuchma for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work toward nuclear non-proliferation, the Foundation's nomination letter was co-signed by seven prominent professors, representing prestigious universities in North America, Europe, and Japan. Subsequently, due to the Foundations' connections with academic institutions around the world, many other scholars and politicians lent their support to President Kuchma's nomination. The Petro Jacyk Foundation is the only Ukrainian institution with the requisite infrastructure, prestige, and international reputation to effectuate such a campaign.

The Foundation's primary goal is to create and develop a global network of permanent academic programs in Ukrainian Studies and Ukrainian scholarly centres, whose combined efforts will have a significant impact on international scholarship. Within a few years of is inception, the Foundation contributed to the creation of such programs at the University of London and the University of Alberta (Edmonton), Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), and the University of Toronto. In 1989, with the aim of producing an English-language publication of a fundamental history of Ukraine, the Foundation established the Petro Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Edmonton, which is currently preparing a full English-language edition of M. Hrushevsky's History of Ukraine-Rus'. This publication will serve as the scholarly basis for a new concept of Ukraine's place in world history, which, in turn, will shape a new international attitude toward Ukraine and Ukrainians. After the publication of History, the Foundation will organize a joint effort by several prominent historians to continue where Hrushevsky left off and give a fundamental analysis of Ukraine's history to date. The Foundation is already sponsoring preparatory work for this monumental undertaking at the Institute for Historical Research at Lviv University.

The Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation also supports other projects contributing to the development of Ukrainian scholarship and learning in various disciplines and bringing concrete beneficial results recognized outside of the Ukrainian community. Petro Jacyk was one of the main sponsors of Ukrainian Encyclopedia. Furthermore, in order to provide resource materials for Ukrainian studies programs, the Foundation helped establish resource centres and library collections, such as the Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre and Petro Jacyk Microfilm Collection of Ukrainian Serials, at the University of Toronto Robarts Library. it also funded the Petro Jacyk Endowment for Ukrainian periodicals, which allows Robarts Library to regularly acquire new books, journals, and newspapers dealing with Ukraine. Within the context of ongoing support the Foundation sponsors Ukrainian physicians participating in international cancer research as well as the publication of psychiatric literature in Ukraine. Up until 1993, the Foundation had a well-developed financial assistance program for students and scholars, which provided scholarships and research grants, covered the costs of TOFEL, GRE, and GMAT tests in Ukraine, and collected and disseminated information about financial assistance available to Ukrainian students and researchers at Western universities. However, this latter assistance program has been discontinued due to the overwhelming need and demand for the Foundation to focus its attention on larger projects.

This overview briefly describes the progress of some of the main projects undertaken by the Foundation during the first 10 years of its activity. In addition to these successes, the Foundation has gained an excellent reputation both within international academic circles and the Ukrainian community alike for its efficiency, integrity, and far-reaching plan for the development of Ukrainian studies. To date, the Foundation has relied on the profit from its Capital Fund investments to subsidize its activities. However, the Foundations' growing popularity in international academic circles has provided it with more opportunities than ever to promote Ukrainian scholarship throughout the world! Thus, the Foundation appeals to all those, who would like to leave their permanent imprint in the history of Ukrainian culture and scholarship, to join the Foundation in a constructive and mutually beneficial cooperative effort.

Unlike many organizations, which raise funds for short-term projects producing few long-lasting results and leaving no permanent record for posterity, the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation has a proven record of long-and short-term success both within the Ukrainian community and the international milieu. We have proven in practice that the Foundation works effectively for the future! All programs created during the first 10 years of its activity have continued to function effectively and have benefitted from increased recognition and importance. Within the next 100 years they will achieve still greater international significance and on the heels of their success, more new programs will be created! Our programs have become and will continue to serve as everlasting monuments for their founders!

Now, every person who wishes to contribute to the development of Ukrainian culture and scholarship and, in the process, to immortalize his/her name, is being provided the opportunity to create a permanent Name Fund within the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation! Every year, the income from this Fund, named in honour of the donor, will be directed on his/her behalf toward a charitable program of his/her choice. You can create university programs in your own name of sponsor important scholarly publications. You can establish a prize in your name for prominent scholars, scientists, writers, or politicians, or a scholarship fund for Ukrainian students. You can join important international projects made possible only due to the Foundation's unique status and high international reputation! For example, you can sponsor a campaign to support the nomination of Ukrainian writers for the Nobel Prize of finance the work of high-level inter-governmental institutions. The possibilities for your cultural and scholarly contribution are endless!

Those who wish to contribute to Ukrainian scholarship, culture, and community life, yet are unable to sponsor a Name Fund, have the opportunity of fulfil their goal by donating to the Foundation's General Fund. Each and every dollar donated will be allocated to the Foundation's main charitable programs. All donations are tax-deductible and the Foundation gives public recognition to all donors. for additional information please contact:

Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation,
1260 Eglinton Avenue East,
Mississauga, Ont. L4W 1K8,
Canada,
tel: (905) 238-0467,
fax: (905) 625-8445.

At the Harriman Institute. From the left: President of Columbia University, George Rupp, President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, PJEF President, Peter Jacyk.

At Harvard University. Standing from the left: Prof. O. Bilaniuk, Prof. M. Raef; sitting from the left: Prof. G. Gibian, P. Jacyk , Prof. R. Szporluk.

The University of Toronto Robarts Library housing the Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre, the Petro Jacyk Microfilm Collection of Ukrainian Serials, and other PJEF projects.

Immortalize your name by supporting Ukrainian Scholarship and Culture

The Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation promotes Ukrainian studies at the world's leading universities. From the English-language edition of Hrushevsky's History to the nomination of President Kuchma for the Nobel Peace Prize – the Foundation's programs shape global opinion about the Ukrainian nation.

You can become an integral part of our international projects by creating a permanent Name Fund within the Foundation. Your Fund will serve Ukrainian culture and scholarship while immortalizing your name through its achievements! We are also appealing for smaller donations. All donations are tax-deductible.

Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation,
1260 Eglinton Avenue East, Mississauga, Ont. L4W 1K8,
tel: (905) 238-0467, fax: 625-8445.

I would like more information about the permanent Name Fund. __
I would like to make a donation to the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation in the sum of _____.

NAME_____

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XXII–ий Семінар Хорових Диригентів

Марія Дитиняк

XXII–ий Семінар Хорових Диригентів, організований Українським Музичним Товариством Альберти, відбудеться в Едмонтоні від 10–23 серпня 1997 р. в приміщенні Інституту св. Івана. Українське Музичне Товариство Альберти, яке існує від 1972 року, займається широкою музичною діяльністю, з яких два проєкти є безперервними, а саме: від 1972 кожнорічні концерти коляд і щедрівок, які дають можливість різним хорам, ансамблям, одиницям виявити себе музично в програмі цих концертів, а другий проєкт це семінари хорових диригентів. Ці семінари наше товариство переводить вже 19 літ і з радістю зауважуємо, що кожного року виявляється нове зацікавлення ними різних диригентів не лише з Альберти але з цілої Канади й Сполучених Штатів Америки. До речі, варто згадати, що під цю пору наше товариство зайняте великим проєктом видання музичної хорової спадщини одного з найвидатніших українських композиторів XXVII ст. Артема Веделя. Підготовка матеріялу до видання є майже на закінченню і в скорому часі вийде у світ цінна книга творів Артема Веделя, яка буде великим і цінним вкладом в скарбницю музичної хорової культури.

Цьогорічна програма навчання включатиме: 1. Диригування – а) групові та індивідуальні заняття, б) емоційна природа музикального образу і музикальної мови (лекційні заняття); 2. Виконавські засоби фразування; 3. Керування церковним хором: а) побудова основних церковних відправ, б) розбір–аналіз Літургії Дениса Січинського; 4. Робота з дитячим та юнацьким хорами – а) про вікові особливості дитяних голосів, б) вокальне виховання дитячого голосу, в) методика роботи з дитячим хором; 5. Українська музика – а) жанри в українській хоровій музиці, б) прослухання типових зразків кожного жанру; 6. Хорознавство; 7. Семінарний хор – а) Репитиційна та виконавська робота семінаристів з хором, б) праця над виробленням техніки проведення репетицій.

Минулого року в програмі навчання XXI–го семінару дві теми виявили велике зацікавлення серед учасників семінару, а саме: робота диригента з дитячими та юнацькими хорами, та надзвичайно цікавий розбір–аналіз новоствореної Літургії Валерія Кікти.

Тому, маєстро В. Колесник, який укладає кожнорічні програми навчання, рішив цього року продовжити тему роботи з дитячими та юнацькими хорами, щоб дати можливість тим семінаристам, що працюють з дітьми, запізнатися ще більше з специфікою цієї галузі хорового мистецтва.

Літургія — це особливий жанр хорової музики, яка вимагає глибокого розуміння текстів, характеру молитв, з яких складається загальна музична драматургія всього обряду. Цього року відбудеться, в такому самому пляні як минулого року, розбір–аналіз маловідомої Літургії Дениса Січинського.

Кожного року семінаристи мають нагоду працювати над 10–ма творами нашої хорової клясики та творами сучасних композиторів. Звичайно ці твори є багаті на навчальний матеріял різнородних нюансів диригентської майстерності, але рівночасно це дає нагоду кожному семінаристові збагатити свій хоровий репертуар цікавими, часто новими творами.

Українське Музичне Товариство Альберти дякує нашим фундаціям, організаціям за фінансову піддержку, а нашій пресі щире спасибі за кожночасне поміщення наших іфнормативних статтей про діяльність семінарів.

Про ближчі інформації звертайтеся: Ukrainian Choral Conductors Seminar 11728-97 St., Edmonton, Alberta. T5G 1Y2, Canada. Tel: (403) 474-9774.

Заробіток — 80 долярів на місяць

«Зеркало недели», Київ

(КБУВ)—147,73 гривні, або близько 80 амер. долярів, становила середня заробітна плата в Україні у березні (1 доляр = 1,84 гривні). Цей показник на 6,4% перевищує лютевий, але на 9,8% нижчий за рівень грудня минулого року.

Згідно з відомостями, наданими агенству «Інтерфакс–Україна» у Міністерстві статистики, найвищий показник середньої зарплати серед регіонів України зафіксовано в Києві — 206,34 грн. У Донецькій та Дніпропетровській областях ці показники становили відповідно 179,50 грн. та 176,52 грн. Водночас у Закарпатській області середня зарплата в березні складала лише 101,60 грн.

Згідно з відомостями Мінстату, найвищу середню зарплату в березні отримали працівники атомних станцій — 432,07 ргн. В цілому ж у промисловості вона становила 162,93 грн., а в енергетиці — 308,60 грн.

У паливній промисловості рівень середніх зарплат коливався від 248,35 грн. у вугільній галузі до 321,16 грн. в газовій.

У березні за рівнем середніх зарплат також лідирували працівники метрополітену (248,39 грн.), авіяційного транспорту (252,93 грн.), а також зв'язківці (203,40 грн.).

Найнижчими в березні лишалися середні зарплати у сфері громадського харчування — 65,46 грн., а також у сільському господарстві — 83,63 грн. Місячний заробіток працівника охорони здоров'я становив 120,07 грн., службовців сфери освіти — 125,67 грн.

А скільки ж отримали працівники апарату державного управління? В середньому 183,61 грн. В усякому разі, таку цифру назвав Мінстат.

ФОТО — РОМАН ПЕТРІВ

Виступ хору «Видубичі».

Хор «Видубичі» відбуває концертове турне по Канаді

Марія Дитиняк

11 травня в приміщенні Робертсон Юнайтед Чирч в Едмонтоні відбувся рідкісний мистецький концерт церковного хору «Видубичі» з Києва, який тепер відбуває своє концертове турне по Канаді.

Церковний хор «Видубичі» був заснований в 1990 році в Києві, один з перших церковних хорів, який співав Служби Божі українською мовою у відновлених храмах Києва та за його межами. За своє коротке існування хор «Видубичі» здобув широку славу своїм церковним співом але й своїми виступами на різних фестивалях, й не лишень репертуаром духовної музики, але й колядками, щедрівками та українськими народніми піснями.

Перша частина програми концерту складалася виключно з духовно релігійних творів. В другій частині домінували народні пісні.

Молитовність першої частини програми була настроєво почата входом хористів на сцену з засвіченими свічками під звуки «Христос Воскрес» П. Турчанінова. Опісля прозвучали твори П. Турчанінова, І. Заяця, П. Гончарова, А. Веделя, Я. Яциневича, О. Архангельського, К. Стеценка, М. Леонтовича, М. Вербицького. Важко вирізнити якийсь твір, бо кожний мав щось своєрідне і в кожному відчувалося глибоке вникнення в зміст твору диригента і хористів. У виконанні творів позначалося спокійне розвивання поліфонічного фразування, нюансування окремих голосів, чистота інтонації, заокругленість темпів і динаміки. А все таки хочу вирізнити деякі, що своєю інтерпретацією залишили в мене певне враження: Псалом 101 «Господи почуй молитву мою» О. Архангельського, з настроєвим унісонним заспівом чоловічого складу хору, з ефектовними низькими тонами басів, з гарним заокругленням фраз. У «Заповідь Блаженства» М. Леонтовича, соліст В. Грохольський своїм мяким ліричним тенором чудово виконав цю молитву на тлі хору. Мене все цікавить творчий підхід різних композиторів до тої самої теми. На цьому концерті ми мали нагоду послухати «Ангел вітає» а. Веделя і М. Вербицького. Ця сама тема але зовсім контрастний підхід через призму індивідуального таланту композитора. У широко відомому творі А. Веделя відчувалося майже ангельський спів жіночого тріо, що відтак збагатився радісними піднесеними звуками цілого хору. Знова у творі М. Вербицького, маєстат Воскресення композитор представив великими повними акордами гомофонного викладу.

Друга частина програми була присвячена українським народнім пісням, де хори чергувалися з сольними номерами, а подекуди з акомпаняментом бандур, сопілок і баяна.

У сольних номерах виступили бандуристки Тетяна Лобода, що виконала твір сучасного композитора П. Приступова на сл. Сковороди «О покою наш небесний»; Світлана Вознюк своїм теплої краски альтом виконала «Ой попливи вутко»; Людмила Ткач своїм сріблисто ясним сопрано задемонструвала жартівливу пісню «На вулиці скрипка грає».

Публіка щедро оплескувала кожний номер концерту і довго стоячи не відпускала хор зі сцени, дякуючи своїми оплесками хористам за чудову духову насолоду.

В свою чергу хорові номера включали кант «Почаївська Божа Мати» М. Леонтовича, з солістом аксамитного тембру баритоном О. Бойка, «Діброво зелена» в обр. А. Авдієвтського, лірична пісня в обр. сучасного композитора І. Бідака «Ой на Івана Купала», «Ой у полі вітер віє» О. Кошиця та «В гаю зелененькім» Ф. Колесси. Всі ці пісні полонили публіку своєю безпосередністю і простотою. Чоловічий склад хору заблестів піснями «Бандуристе орле сизий» обр. Орлова, з солістом В. Соколовським та жартівливою «Як ішов я з Дебречуна».

А вже зовсім заполонили публіку пісні: грайливо–жартівлива «Ой дуб, дуба» в обр. М. Ракова та «Дримба» сучасного композитора В. Зубицького, де хор заблестів повним технічним опануванням ритміки та дикції.

Відчувається, що хор складається з кваліфікованих співаків – солістів, які, проте, злилися в єдину одиницю своїм тембром, та інтонаційністю. Хор – камерний, бо всього 17 хористів але у форте відчувалася велика, не форсовна, сила звуку, а коли додати до цього ритмічну прецизність, повне динамічне звучання, зіспіванність – то це вказує, що хор «Видубичі» є один з кращих сучасних наших хорів. Очевидно велика заслуга в цьому диригентам Валентині Кульчицькій–Шовкун, та Володимирові Віняр, які своїми інтерпретаціями творів надали хорові своєрідне обличчя.

Публіка щедро оплескувала кожний номер концерту і довго стоячи не відпускала хор зі сцени, дякуючи своїми оплесками хористам за чудову духову насолоду.

Хочеться зложити признання і подяку Консисторії Української Православної Церкви за спонзорство концертового турнє хору по Канаді, а едмонтонському організаційному комітетові в числі Єлени Шарабун, Корнеля Зубрицького та Ореста Солтикевича за всю підготовчу працю концерту в Едмонтоні.

Дай нам Боже більше того роду мистецьких імпрез, які свідчать про велике багатство духової культури нашого народу. Приємно було бачити на залі молодих а то й дітей, на яких такого роду імпрези напевно роблять позитивний вплив і гордість за велику мистецьку культуру нашого народу.

UCSS considering Lviv project

(UCSS)—Sandra Kunanec, clinical coordinator and supervisor with the Nadiya Association for Children with Cerebral Palsy in Lviv, addressed members of the Board of Ukrainian Canadian Social Services and representatives of other organizations, May 3.

Some 30 people were in attendance and received an excellent presentation. Sandra is a very highly educated and trained Canadian has now committed herself to make a difference with the non-profit organization "Nadiya".

She explained that, regardless of their disabilities, children are learning to function and progress in their development. The children are now smiling, talking, happy to go to school. The Dzherelo School and Rehabilitation Centre is a start of a big project that will make a difference for thousands of children from all over Ukraine.

Left to right: Sandra Kunanec, Bill Diachuk, Rev. Vincent Pryhidko.

The budget for 1997-98 is approximately $50,000 and during the past several years the Children of Chornobyl Canadian Fund has provided much of the needed fund and will be continuing its support.

However, Ukrainian Canadian Social Services is considering this as a project in cooperation with organizations and individuals. Currently there is a small balance from the Na Zdorovia Fund and a donation from a family in Fort St. John, B.C., which amounts to over $5,000.

UCSS President, Bill Diachuk, explained to the gathering that the intent is to apply to the Canadian International Development Agency for funding through a partnership program, as is carried out in many third world countries. However, Diachuk added that the Dzherelo project may have to be carried out for the first year without CIDA's participation, but the intent is to try and get CIDA participation.

CLASSIFIED

MARRIAGE MINDED? Single white male, 39, 5'7", 160 lbs., divorced. Seeking single white female, healthy, non-smoker. Reply to: **Greg Mankiss, 15 Country Creek Drive, Baden, Ontario N0B 1G0.**

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN SOCIAL SERVICES
11666 - 95 St. Edmonton, AB T5G 1L8
Ph.: 471-4477 Fax: 477-0617

UCSS - a non-profit, charitable organization responding to the needs and interest of the Ukrainian Community

ССУК - це добродійна, громадська установа яка допомагає тим що потребують допомоги серед української громади

UCSS is providing various services:
- home visits, counselling and advice,
- information, referral and translation services,
- aid in sponsorship of immigrants and refugees,
- parcels and money delivered to Ukraine,

Volunteers, if you are willing to help us with bingos please contact our office!

Next bingos:
May 26/97 5:00 p.m. June 05/97 5:00 p.m.

Vohon in action

The Fire is back!

1996 was a great year for Edmonton's Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

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If you want to be a part of the fire, auditions will be taking place Sunday, May 25th, 1997 at 2 pm. at UNF Hall (10629 - 98 St.) If you are interested in more info contact our Artistic Directors Ken Kachmar and Debbie Kachmar at 467-5019.

Chervona Ruta ends

(Ukrinform)—The two-week-long music festival dubbed "Chervona Ruta" ended in Kharkiv's Liberty Square, May 12. Up to 100 individual performers and groups took part. The jury was headed by Taras Petrynenko. Among the prize winners was Kyiv vocalist Tanya Chily. There will also be a performance in Kyiv, May 25 The Chervona Ruta Festival, which is the fifth since inception, is normally held every two years and is aimed at discovering new young artistic hopefuls.

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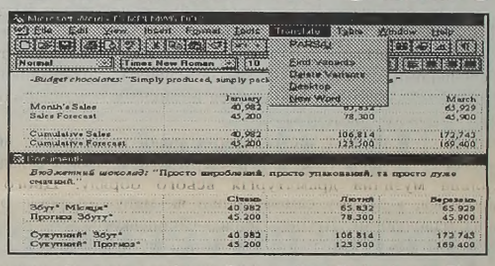

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IF NEEDED, *"READS"* UKRAINIAN TO PREPARE TEXT FOR THE TRANSLATION STAGE

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CAN BE AUTOMATED FURTHER

If Ukrainian or English documents are faxed directly into your computer (via the fax-modem) the entire process is even easier. During the first stage, FineReader ensures that the OCR process is performed properly and spellchecks the text to make sure that any and all mistakes are eliminated and that the text is ready for translation. Then the second stage provides a with a professional translation from Ukrainian to English or vice versa.

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FineReader is also available for other languages such as French, German, Russian, Italian and Spanish. For each and every language FineReader has a large built-in dictionary which automatically corrects any mistakes which may have been picked up due to illegibility of the original text during the scanning stage. The quality of recognition for any of the languages exceeds even the most expensive OCR software (**NONE** of which, of course, contain Ukrainian).

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New oil and gas chief appointed

(InfoBank)—President Kuchma has appointed Mykhailo Kovalko as head of the State Committee on Oil and Gas and the Oil-Refining Industry, said the head of the Presidential Administration, Yevhen Kushnaryov, at a May 14 press conference in Kyiv.

Prior to his new appointment, Kovalko was head of Ukraine's State Committee for Energy Saving

In 1993 he was appointed head of the State Committee for the Oil and Gas Industry, and before that, first deputy head of state-owned UkrHazProm.

Kovalko replaces Bohdan Babiy who was dismissed by the President on April 2 for "failing in the performance of his duties."

Credit Union project discussed

The Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa hosted a meeting to discuss implementation of the Canadian "Development of Credit Unions in Ukraine" project, Ukrinform reported May 13.

Representatives of the Canadian Cooperative Association, the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions in Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency, which is sponsoring the project, met with Ihor Sanin, Head of the Trade and Economic Mission to give a progress report.

The project calls for the creation of 20 model credit unions in Ukraine, as well as training of specialists both in Ukraine and in Canada.

The five-year C$4.5 million project is being financed by the Canadian government through CIDA

Sanin noted Canada's great experience in the development of credit union and added this is of considerable importance to the Ukrainian partners.

He also said that the large number of Ukrainian credit unions in Canada open up many opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

UUIB threatens to oppose government

(InfoBank)—The president of the Union of Industrialists and Businessmen (UUIB) says the approval of the 1997 national budget based on a sound tax policy was torpedoed by the inconsistent actions by the Government and excessive politicking of Parliament.

Speaking at the sixth special convention of the UUIB in Kyiv, May 19, Anatoliy Kinakh added that the UUIB "reserves the right to stage the acts of non-confidence, to be followed by opposition to legislative and executive branches".

Kinakh says no structural changes have been made which would have really helped to raise the competitiveness of domestic goods. The share in the total industrial output of machine-building and light industries — where Ukraine could compete on world markets — dropped, compared with 1990, from 28% to 15% and from 11% to 2%.

At the same time, Kinakh said, the share of "economically harmful branches" — metallurgy, chemical industry and fuel-energy complex — amounts to almost half of the total industrial output, while being only 20% in 1990. Industrial power consumption has grown 1.34 times since 1990.

Business Briefs

Canadians bid on copper fields

So far, three Canadian and one Australian company have submitted tenders to develop copper fields in Volyn Oblast, reports Ukrinform. The tender is to last until July 21. The copper fields are located at a depth of 200 to 700 metres.

Oil terminal being built in Lviv Oblast

(InfoBank)—The construction of Western Ukraine's second largest oil terminal designed to store oil products is to be completed by the end of 1998. The terminal will have a euro-standard 143.5 cm-rail road track and will be located at the border crossing point in Mostyska, Lviv Oblast. General contractor for the construction is the Alfa Company from Lviv, with the assistance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

April inflation 0.8%

(InfoBank)—The inflation rate for April was 0.8%, reports the Ministry of Statistics. This was up from the March level of 0.7%. In January the rate was 1.2% and in February — 2.2%.

CUBI '97 delegation to be led by Lazarenko

Trade development event to boost business with Ukraine

Ukraine's Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko has confirmed that he will lead a delegation of business and government leaders from Ukraine to participate at the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative 1997 (CUBI '97) in Calgary, June 15-16. Increased trade opportunities for Canadian business will be the result of this new trade initiative between Canada and Ukraine.

CUBI '97 is a unique opportunity being offered to Canadian and Ukrainian businesses to forge international business partnerships. CUBI '97 is a private sector driven trade promotion event.

An event combining business conferences, trade shows and business networking events, CUBI '97 is designed to bring together Ukrainian and Canadian businesses in the sectors of energy, agriculture and agrifood, and construction. Over 3000 senior private and public sector delegates are expected to attend from Ukraine and Canada.

"The great development potential of Ukraine and recent progress in the transition to a free market economy make this initiative timely — 1997 will be

Business

an exciting year to be involved in opportunities in Ukraine," said CUBI '97 chairman Laurence Decore.

CUBI '97 will take place June 14-20, concurrently at events throughout the three prairie provinces including Calgary's Intercan Oil & Gas Show, Regina's Farm Progress Show and Winnipeg's Canadian Building Products & Construction Conference. With over 50,000 participants at these events, Canadians will have a first-hand opportunity to make business connections with key decision makers in Ukraine.

As Ukraine's 53 million people progress towards a market economy, a growing number of business opportunities will evolve. A private sector-driven initiative, CUBI '97 is supported by the Governments of Ukraine and Canada, as well as the provincial governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Mitsui to invest US$200 million in refinery upgrade

(InfoBank)—May 19, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Mitsui Corp. director H. Kumahayi discussed the modernization project of the Kremenchuk refinery.

The Japanese corporation agreed to invest US$200 million in the project.

The refinery's technical director told InfoBank that Mitsui will provide the investment in the form of loans to be used to upgrade a catalytic cracking facility for more thorough oil processing and to build a cracking plant for high-grade diesel fuel production.

Serhiy Laytar said the whole project may take three to four years to complete.

He also said the Japanese company insists on Ukrainian Government guarantees — prior to the extension of loans. The Government, however, had not taken any decision on such guarantees before Udovenko's visit to Japan.

The refinery in Kremenchuk is the largest Ukrainian oil-processing facility. In 1996, 5.8 million tons of oil were processed, almost half of the all-Ukrainian total. Jointly with the Russian TatNeft (Tatarstan Oil), the Kremenchuk refinery is one of the founders of the Ukrainian-Russian transnational UkrTatNafta (Ukraine/Tatarstan Oil) company.

Privatization without progress?

(JF Monitor)—According to the Ministry of Statistics, more than 6,600 non-state industrial enterprises were operating in Ukraine during the first quarter of 1997.

These firms constituted 71.5 percent of the country's total number of industrial enterprises, and accounted for 52.4 percent of industrial production. These figures represent an increase over the 5,400 non-state industrial firms, which accounted for 60.4 percent of total industrial enterprises and 48.4 percent of industrial output, reported at the end of the first quarter of 1996.

The Ministry of Statistics announcement came after President Leonid Kuchma's signing of Ukraine's 1997 privatization program, which calls for 50 percent of the net revenues earned from privatization to be retained by the privatizing firms themselves.

This reflects a shift from the exclusively fiscal orientation of privatization in past years, whereby all net privatization revenues were claimed by the state treasury. Although some 5,230 state enterprises are slated for privatization in 1997, this would represent a substantial decrease over the approximately 17,000 firms that were officially privatized during the first nine months of 1996.

While these figures may seem impressive, there is less here than meets the eye. The stunning (65-75 percent) decline in industrial production recorded during 1990-1996 — much of which reflected the inability of state-owned industrial firms to adjust to market conditions — suggests that the (presumably more efficient) non-state sector should have long ago been producing the bulk of Ukraine's industrial output.

Moreover, most of the 45,000 state enterprises that had been privatized by October 1996 had been subject to Ukraine's somewhat hasty voucher privatization program, and have since had neither the resources nor the opportunity to launch the extensive restructuring many of these firms need to survive in a market environment.

Moreover, Ukraine's large underground economy, which is often described as exceeding the official economy in size, makes estimating the relative size of Ukraine's state and non-state sectors something of an arbitrary exercise. In any case, there is no evidence that the growth of private enterprise in Ukraine has arrested the decline in GDP (which fell by 10 percent in 1996) or industrial output, both of which are continuing to fall in 1997.

Mityukov upbeat on the economy

(RFE/RL)—Finance Minister Ihor Mityukov told journalists in the U.S. capital May 15 that even without the large, long-term loan Ukraine expects to get from the International Monetary Fund soon, the country is doing better than the fund's targets, RFE/RL's Washington correspondent reported.

Mityukov said the targets agreed with the IMF for 1997 are inflation no higher than 25% a year and a budget deficit of 4.2% of GDP.

Mityukov said inflation was only 4.1% in the first four months, which, he added, means the economy can absorb the expected 3-4% hike in inflation that will be caused by the raising of tariffs on municipal services.

Mityukov further said Ukraine is in the final stages of preparing to seek funds on the Japanese and European capital markets.

Meanwhile, State Minister Anatoly Minchenko told a press conference in Kyiv May 15 that Ukraine plans to cut its purchases of Russian natural gas by more than half in the next few years.

Privatization not cause of corruption, study finds

By Robert Lyle

(RFE/RL)—The privatization of enterprises in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has been tainted by widespread corruption, but a private study of the phenomenon finds that the incidence of corruption would be larger without privatization and is more prevalent in non-privatized economic sectors.

The study was conducted by Paul Siegelbaum, chief of the World Bank's Enterprise Development Division for Europe and Central Asia, and Daniel Kaufmann, a bank employee on leave as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Institute for International Development. Kaufmann was last Chief of Mission for the bank in Ukraine.

Their study, published in Columbia University's Journal of International Affairs, says that the scale of privatization now underway in the transition economies is "historically unprecedented," but appears to be so riddled with corruption that many now believe privatization itself is causing the crime.

Their conclusion, however, is exactly the opposite: "Taking into consideration all other characteristics of the transition, privatization — with all its inadequacies — is preferable to its absence."

In fact, they say, the theft of assets in the region "effectively started a few years before communism fell." The study says "the state's assets were being stolen by enterprise managers, politicians and bureaucrats at an intolerable rate and, for most countries, the only alternative to sanctioning wholesale theft was to make the process somewhat more transparent and participatory and to try and direct these assets to other hands — in pursuit of socially and economically more positive goals."

The study by Kaufmann and Siegelbaum says "the formalization of privatization as a reform strategy was forced on the transition economies by the simple fact that social, political and legal/fiduciary controls had collapsed in the wake of the Soviet Union's break-up."

While there is a general belief that privatization has caused the corruption, the study finds that "in some countries in the region corruption has in large part been fueled by the lack of privatization in agriculture and in parts of the energy sector, where the old nomenklatura has continued to benefit from large handouts, kickbacks and huge monopoly rents."

There is, however, a big difference in the level of corruption depending on the type of privatization. Generally, voucher-based mass privatization and liquidation are the least corruption-prone implementation methods, says the study, because they are usually quick, the level of administrative discretion is limited and there is more transparency and access to information.

The worst forms of privatization are management-employee buyouts and spontaneous privatization, both of which are "highly conducive to corruption" principally due to their slow pace, lack of transparency and high levels of discretion left to officials.

The study says the notion that the transition economies are now fully in the post-privatization stage is wrong. The region is in fact ready for a second, more comprehensive wave of privatization. "Given the magnitude of the holdings that still remain in the hands of the state, a faster and simpler second stage of privatization initiatives and programs ought to be implemented."

Kaufmann and Siegelbaum say that where politically feasible, some countries should try to recapture the "daring early days of mass privatization programs...suitably adapted with the lessons learned."

They do not name countries, but say speedy privatization of remaining state interests would reap "substantial benefits compared with the alternatives." They even suggest "outright cancellation of residual state ownership in partially privatized enterprises."

IMF funding chances improved

(JF Monitor)—Ukraine's prospects for receiving its long-delayed US$2.7-2.9 billion extended funding facility (EFF) credit from the International Monetary Fund seem to have improved.

During his visit to Washington, President Leonid Kuchma was told by IMF managing director Michel Camdessus that the Fund would probably decide to release the EFF "in the course of the coming weeks".

While Camdessus reminded Kuchma that the release depended on parliamentary approval of Ukraine's 1997 budget and tax reform legislation, Camdessus also described as a "great accomplishment" the Ukrainian government's May 12 decision to make the hryvnia convertible in accordance with criteria set forth in Article VIII of the IMF's articles of agreement. Camdessus's enthusiasm would seem to contradict recent reports that the IMF is losing patience with Ukraine's inability to pass its basic fiscal legislation.

Russia imposes tariff on Ukrainian sugar

(JF Monitor)—May 15 Russia imposed a 25 percent tariff on sugar imports from the CIS. The tariff, which does not apply to members of the Customs Union, will mainly affect Ukraine, which sold 1.3 million tons of sugar to Russia in 1996, worth about US$700 million. One third of Russia's 4.5 million ton sugar consumption was met with imports last year, causing most of the country's 96 sugar factories to lay off their 54,000 workers for half the year. Ukrainian sugar is one third cheaper than that produced in Russia. The new tariff will push up the retail price of sugar in Russia by at least 10 percent.

Medvedev takes third German Open title

Sports

Kyiv's Andriy Medvedev demolished 10th seed Felix Mantilla 6-0 6-4 6-2 in less than 90 minutes May 11 to take the German Open title for the third time in four years, reported Reuters.

The Ukrainian's double-quick win against the Spanish claycourt specialist made him the first player in 21 years to complete a hat-trick of German Opens, since American Eddie Dibbs.

The unseeded Medvedev's surprisingly one-sided win brought him his fourth victory in five matches against a seeded player and signalled a return to the form that saw him ranked as high as number four in the world three years ago.

The thunderous power of Medvedev's first serve and forehand drive, the creativity of his drop-shots and his imaginative forays to the net proved too much for Mantilla.

Medvedev took the first set in just 17 minutes and was close to winning the first 11 games in a row. It took 41 minutes for the dogged Mantilla to sneak his first game.

For a while the Spaniard managed to contain Medvedev's best attacks and was occasionally presented with a few cheap points as Medvedev over-pressed.

Mantilla clawed his way back from 1-5 to 4-5, saved a set point at 40-30 on Medvedev's serve and earned himself a point to reach 5-5.

Medvedev said he thought he had played as well as he could but he was entertaining no thoughts that he was back at the level of when he was four in the world.

"There is a new player, who is 38 in the world, and that's me," Medvedev said. "I am going forward. There is no going back."

Ukrainian Premier Soccer Division
Standings May 21st, 1997

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Dynamo, Kyiv	25	20	2	3	57	16	62
Shakhtar, Donetsk	25	15	5	5	57	23	50
Vorskla, Poltava	26	14	7	5	42	21	49
Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk	25	12	11	2	41	14	47
Karpaty, Lviv	26	12	6	8	31	22	42
Chornomorets, Odesa	26	11	5	10	32	26	38
Tavria, Simferopol	26	11	5	10	30	36	38
Zirka, Nibas	25	11	2	12	25	38	35
Nyva, Ternopil	25	10	5	10	23	27	35
Metalurh, Zaporizhia	25	9	4	12	38	41	31
Prykarpatya, Ivano-Frankivsk	26	8	5	13	30	43	29
CSKA, Borysfen	25	7	6	12	21	27	27
Torpedo, Zaporizhia	25	7	5	13	21	41	26
Kryvbas, Kryviy Rih	26	7	4	15	20	46	25
Kremin, Kreminchuk	26	6	3	17	23	46	21
Nyva, Vinnytsya	26	4	5	17	17	41	17

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Luhansk mayor's fall from grace

(The Rukh Insider)—The mayor of a large Ukrainian city, Luhansk, with the reputation of being a young reformer, has become embroiled in a scandal.

The troubles of the mayor in question, Oleksiy Danilov, have revealed Danilov to be a representative of what is referred to as the new nomenklatura, rather than a reformer.

Born in 1962, Danilov finished the Technical School of Agriculture in Starobilsk, Luhansk. He began his career as a veterinarian and worked in a small shop attached to the local zoo selling pets. His first break came reportedly with the help of the Luhansk criminal world, which backed his opening several shops in the center of Luhansk, including a large, Western-style supermarket, the first of its kind, in the early 1990s.

Thereafter, Danilov demonstrated remarkable wiliness. He entered politics, running for mayor of Luhansk in 1994 and winning handily. He accomplished this by coming to terms with his strongest potential rivals and building bridges to all the significant political forces in the oblast.

Danilov's strongest potential opponent, the incumbent mayor Volodymyr Pantiukhyn, was neutralized, doubtless, according to local rumor, in the only way this was feasible, namely, Danilov bought him out.

Next came the turn of the most well-known local politician, Volodymyr Shevchenko, the former First Secretary of the Luhansk Oblast Communist Party organization. He was brought on to the Danilov team, ostensibly through the Pantiukhyn connection.

Shevchenko, a builder by profession, opened doors for Danilov and established a high visibility political profile almost on the spot. At the same time, Danilov was working with the fledgling political parties working in the area. He approached the local Rukh organization, seeking their support. This in itself was a sufficiently innovative approach, seeking the support of a very weak national democratic party in Russified eastern Ukraine, to ensure that Rukh would not oppose him.

Danilov also approached the Liberal Party of Ukraine, which at the time was building itself a solid reputation in the East (which it has since largely lost following its being taken over by Volodymyr Shcherban). He formally took the Luhansk Liberal Party Chairman, Anatoly Parapanov, on to his team. Parapanov currently serves as Danilov's First Deputy. After his election to the post of Mayor, however, it turns out that it was not reforms which were on Danilov's mind so much as business, nomenklatura business at that.

Within a relatively short period of time, Danilov won control over the entire real estate business in the city. This was accomplished by wielding the city government's levers of power, which are considerable, since most city property is owned by the local government. Thus concessions on the sale of real estate, for example, were granted to firms opened up by Danilov or his henchmen. Soon Danilov and his "new team" were pushing into any and all areas of local business. Shops were bought out, new firms created and granted licensing and other privileges, banks were subjected to "nayizdy" (pressure).

In addition, Danilov sought out the local "authority", Valeriy Dobroslavsky, in order to cover himself from potential problems coming from the city's criminal community. It was his business success, however, which brought Danilov grief and has severely jeopardized his political ambitions. A "consensus" arose in the city that Danilov and his team were going too far and too fast.

The old nomenklatura, consisting of the extended old-boy network inherited from the former Communist Party, decided to move in. For purposes of symbolism, Danilov's first big project was targeted, the central supermarket. A tax inspection was begun and the command "find something" issued. As a result, the supermarket was charged a huge fine, for practical purposes impossible to pay. The supermarket's formal owner, Danilov's wife, took to the hospital, a time-honored tradition among functionaries looking to escape "the heat."

This proved too little too late and the oblast's Security Service of Ukraine (SBU, the former KGB) arrested Danilov's wife in the hospital. Danilov got wind and rushed out in his car to blockade the SBU cars. The TV and press arrived. Although Danilov was able to take his wife from the scene, nothing had been resolved. Because the purpose of the "nayizd" was to remove Danilov entirely, no room for negotiation remained and Danilov barricaded himself in his office and began a hunger strike in protest. He has since ended the hunger strike, but the pressure to remove him remains. Danilov is locked into, literally, a fight to the death with the old nomenklatura.

On March 12, Kyiv journalist Petro Shevchenko arrived back from Luhansk and a visit to Danilov for the purpose of presenting his side in a newspaper story. He was found hanged in a basement on the outskirts of Kyiv the next day.

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